
South Dakota GAME REPORT

No. 2016 – 01

2015

Annual Report

SMALL GAME, UPLAND BIRD & MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HARVEST PROJECTIONS

Corey Huxoll

**Game Harvest Surveys Coordinator
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks
Division of Wildlife
Joe Foss Building, 523 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182**

PREFACE

Harvest estimates reported herein for the 2015 small game, upland bird, and migratory bird seasons were developed as described in Wildlife Survey Manual, 2009-2015, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. If species specific methodologies are not reported there, the methodologies are presented within this report.

Corey Huxoll, (Division of Wildlife, Office of Wildlife Administration - Planning - Surveys Section), was responsible for development of these harvest estimates as part of Federal Aid for Wildlife Restoration as Project W-95-R. Electronic harvest survey responses were received through the Internet using Qualtrics® Survey Software and the GFP Survey Response Website. Paper surveys were processed and encoded by Erin Moehring and Dana Ertz.

This report was funded in part by Federal Aid Project W-95-R



INDEX

	Page
Preface	i
STATEWIDE COMBINED HARVEST SUMMARY	1
UPLAND GAME	
Cottontail & Squirrel -- season summary	2
harvest projections	3
cottontail season trends	3
squirrel season trends	4
UPLAND BIRD	
Pheasant -- season summary	5
harvest projections	6
resident-only weekend participation & bag	6
youth-only season participation	6
total harvest distribution	7
resident harvest distribution	8
nonresident harvest distribution	9
season participation & harvest trends	10
season harvest & bag trends	10
Partridge -- season summary	11
harvest projections	12
season trends	12
resident harvest distribution	13
nonresident harvest distribution	14
Prairie Chicken & Sharp-tailed Grouse -- season summary	15
harvest projections	16
season trends	16
resident harvest distribution	17
nonresident harvest distribution	18
Sage Grouse -- season summary	19
OTHER GAME BIRDS	
Mourning Dove -- season summary	20
harvest projections	21
season trends	21
hunter and harvest distribution by county	22

WATERFOWL

Waterfowl Hunter Summary	23
harvest projections.....	23
Tundra Swan -- season summary	24
harvest projections.....	24
harvest distribution by county	25
season trends	25
Ducks (all species) -- season summary	26
harvest projections.....	26
resident hunter and harvest distribution by county	27
nonresident hunter distribution by county	28
season trends	29
Canada Geese, All Seasons -- season summary.....	30
harvest projections.....	31
season trends	31
resident hunter and harvest distribution by county	32
Canada Geese, August Management Take -- season summary.....	33
harvest projections.....	34
hunter and harvest distribution by region.....	34
Canada Geese, Early Fall Season -- season summary	35
harvest projections.....	36
season trends	36
Canada Geese, Special Season -- season summary.....	37
harvest projections.....	37
Light Geese, Regular Season -- season summary	38
harvest projections.....	38
season trends	39
Light Geese, Spring Conservation Order -- season summary	40
harvest projections.....	41
White-fronted Geese -- season summary.....	42
harvest projections.....	42
season trends	43

HARVEST SURVEY RESPONSE RATES	44
--	----

Statewide Combined Harvest

2015 Statewide Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Game Bird Harvest Projection Summary																	last revised: 15 June 2016	
Harvest Statistic	Cottontail	Squirrel	Pheasant	Partridge	Prairie Grouse	Tundra Swan	Ducks	Canada Geese (all seasons)	Canada Geese (August Take)	Canada Geese (Sept. season)	Canada Geese (special season)	Light Geese (regular season)	Light Geese (conserv. order)	White-fronted Geese	Mourning Dove	Grand Totals		
<u>Licenses/Tags</u>	Small Game		Upland Birds			Waterfowl										225,115		
Resident																		
Licenses Available	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	1,100	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	800	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.			
Proj. Active/Sold/Issued	5,779	2,870	65,135	3,189	7,866	1,088	11,994	10,228	1,686	3,608	801	3,096	2,324	1,097	7,255			
Nonresident																		
Licenses Available	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	200	unlim.	unlim.	N/A	unlim.	N/A	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.			
Proj. Active/Sold/Issued	1,020	171	84,901	2,133	5,032	211	3,937	2,104	N/A	275	N/A	519	2,494	275	396			
Totals																		
Licenses Available	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	1,300	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	800	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	unlim.	743,215		
Proj. Active/Sold/Issued	6,799	3,041	150,037	5,322	12,898	1,299	15,931	12,332	1,686	3,883	801	3,616	4,818	1,373	7,651			
<u>Hunting Recreation</u>																	436,771	
Residents																		
Average Days Hunted	6.69	6.22	6.17	5.63	4.72	4.56	7.22	7.00	3.03	N/A	1.18	5.66	5.98	5.93	4.66			
Total Days Hunted	38,484	17,649	398,778	17,809	37,235	3,338	86,544	71,640	5,111	N/A	634	17,526	13,885	6,508	33,818			
Average Season Bag	6.40	4.70	8.06	1.85	4.40	N/A	14.11	7.18	6.06	5.00	1.19	12.04	16.21	1.47	17.53			
Mean Satisfaction Score	5.37	5.37	4.98	4.98	4.98	5.17	4.87	4.78	-	4.81	5.26	4.78	-	-	5.01			
Nonresidents																		
Average Days Hunted	3.69	3.10	4.15	4.71	4.05	4.86	4.54	4.30	-	3.39	-	4.71	6.63	5.20	3.29			
Total Days Hunted	3,762	514	351,864	9,924	20,336	647	17,875	9,193	-	933	-	2,448	16,538	1,432	1,303			
Average Season Bag	2.38	1.10	8.71	2.36	3.08	N/A	11.32	2.70	-	9.84	-	6.72	28.35	0.73	19.46			
Mean Satisfaction Score	5.47	5.47	5.49	5.49	5.49	5.07	4.90	4.98	-	4.76	-	4.83	-	-	5.83			
Total Days Hunted	42,246	18,163	750,642	27,733	57,571	3,986	104,419	80,833	5,111	N/A	634	19,974	30,423	7,941	35,122	1,179,985		
<u>Harvest</u>																1,951,417		
Residents	37,407	13,311	517,942	5,840	34,506	N/A	169,183	73,471	10,221	18,028	635	37,266	37,655	1,618	127,217			
Nonresidents	2,397	180	737,936	5,019	15,388	N/A	44,562	5,482	-	2,707	-	3,492	70,703	201	7,705			
Total	39,803	13,490	1,255,878	10,859	49,894	229	213,745	78,954	10,221	20,735	635	40,758	108,358	1,819	134,922			

COTTONTAIL & SQUIRREL

The 2015 cottontail rabbit and tree squirrel seasons covered 1 September 2015 - 29 February 2016. Harvest surveys were sent to resident and nonresident hunters after the close of the pheasant season on 3 January 2016. It is assumed that this captured the majority of cottontail and squirrel hunting and harvest.

For cottontail, the daily limit was 10, possession 30, and the season was open statewide. For squirrel, the daily limit was 5, possession 15, and the season was open statewide. Residents holding small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game licenses were eligible to participate in the season. Nonresidents were required to obtain either a small game or a youth small game license to hunt upland game.

In 2015, there were 91,789 resident and 89,284 nonresident licenses issued that allowed holders to hunt upland game. Approximately 10% of residents and nonresidents were surveyed for the upland game seasons. Survey response rates were 65% for residents and 67% for nonresidents.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting cottontail, there were a projected 5,779 resident and 1,020 nonresident cottontail hunters. Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting squirrels, there were a projected 2,870 resident and 171 nonresident hunters. An estimated 39,803 cottontails and 13,490 squirrels were harvested during the 2015 small game seasons.

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), resident hunters reported an average satisfaction level of 5.37, while nonresidents reported a rating of 5.47.

Comparison of the 2006 - 2015 cottontail and squirrel harvests

Year	Cottontails				Squirrels			
	Hunters		Harvest		Hunters		Harvest	
	Resident	Nonres	Resident	Nonres	Resident	Nonres	Resident	Nonres
2006	9,617	2,236	105,787	10,040	3,503	115	19,792	210
2007	8,732	1,676	87,320	11,430	2,644	200	13,405	240
2008	8,714	1,955	96,203	8,915	2,833	230	11,785	442
2009	7,485	1,304	65,793	6,090	2,827	181	12,156	309
2010	6,011	885	44,481	1,832	2,901	96	12,677	115
2011	3,019	529	19,835	845	1,547	78	6,806	146
2012	3,133	794	18,758	1,763	1,553	166	7,338	400
2013	4,199	516	21,682	846	2,911	116	10,962	61
2014	5,366	754	28,276	1,591	2,552	150	9,587	241
2015	5,779	1,020	37,407	2,397	2,870	171	13,311	180

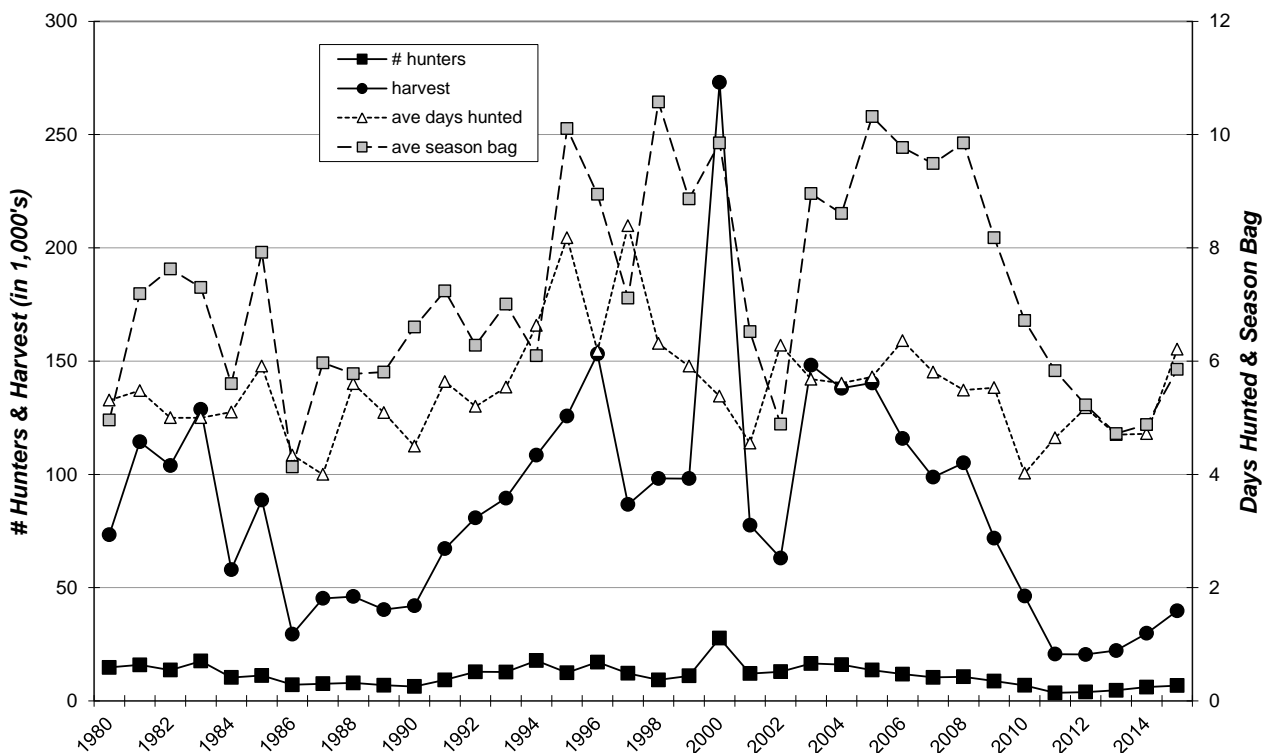
Survey design changed in 2005, 2010, and 2014 and may not be directly comparable to previous years.

South Dakota Game Report No 2016-01 - 2015 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections
Corey Huxoll

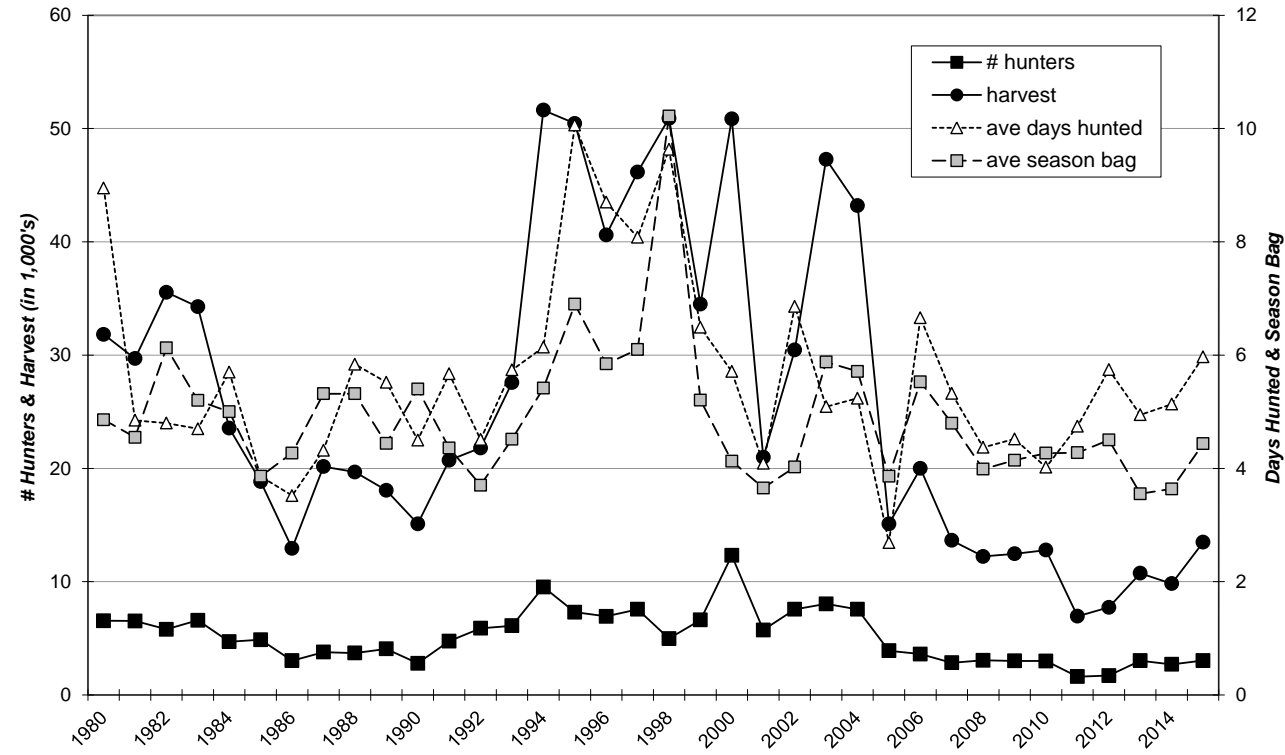
UPLAND GAME HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2015									
Last Revised: 10 June 2016									
	RESIDENT TOTALS BY LICENSE TYPE						NONRESIDENT TOTALS		
	Small Game	Combination	Senior Combo	Junior Combo	Youth SmGm	Sum Estimates	Non Res Sm Game	Youth Sm Gm	Sum Estimates
Licenses Sold	23,553	47,105	7,739	8,219	5,173	91,789	86,718	2,566	89,284
Projected ACTIVE UPLAND GAME HUNTERS	1,094	3,646	376	659	567	6,341	1,014	96	1,109
Number Sampled by Survey	1,984	4,021	655	631	436	7,727	7,620	206	7,826
Number Responded to Survey	1,163	2,687	577	312	283	5,022	5,168	104	5,272
% Responded and Participated in Season	5%	8%	5%	8%	11%	7%	1%	4%	1%
Responded and Participated in Season	54	208	28	25	31	346	62	4	66
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	1,109	2,479	549	287	252	4,676	5,106	100	5,206
Survey Response Rate	58.6%	66.8%	88.1%	49.4%	64.9%	65.0%	67.8%	50.5%	67.4%
No. Hunters Reporting Cottontail Days	48	191	26	22	29	316	58	3	61
Sum Cottontail Hunted Days	338	1,196	223	141	217	2,115	214	11	225
Average Days Hunted Cottontails	7.04	6.26	8.58	6.41	7.48	6.69	3.69	3.67	3.69
Sum Cottontails Bagged	337	1,222	120	161	181	2,021	137	8	145
Average Cottontail Bag for Season	7.02	6.40	4.62	7.32	6.24	6.40	2.36	2.18	2.38
Projected Days Cottontail Hunting	6,845	20,967	2,991	3,714	3,967	38,484	3,499	264	3,762
Projected No. Cottontail Hunters	972	3,348	349	580	530	5,779	948	72	1,020
Projected Cottontail Bag	6,825	21,423	1,609	4,241	3,309	37,407	2,240	157	2,397
TOTAL COTTONTAIL HARVEST =							39,803		
No. Hunters Reporting Squirrel Days	23	98	10	14	10	155	9	1	10
Sum Squirrel Hunted Days	130	615	90	83	46	964	30	1	31
Average Days Hunted Squirrels	5.65	6.28	9.00	5.93	4.60	6.22	3.33	1.00	3.10
Sum Squirrels Bagged	152	446	47	33	50	728	11	0	11
Average Squirrel Bag for Season	6.61	4.55	4.70	2.36	5.00	4.70	1.22	0.00	1.10
Projected Days Squirrel Hunting	2,633	10,781	1,207	2,186	841	17,649	490	24	514
Projected No. Squirrel Hunters	466	1,718	134	369	183	2,870	147	24	171
Projected Squirrel Bag	3,078	7,819	630	869	914	13,311	180	0	180
TOTAL SQUIRREL HARVEST =							13,490		
Mean Satisfaction Score *	5.57	5.25	5.43	5.08	6.00	5.37	5.45	5.75	5.47

* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1="very dissatisfied" and 7="very satisfied"

SOUTH DAKOTA COTTONTAIL HARVEST, 1980-2015



SOUTH DAKOTA SQUIRREL HARVEST, 1980-2015



PHEASANT

The 2015 pheasant season covered 17 October 2015 – 3 January 2016 statewide. There was also a Youth season open 3-7 October on public and private land and an early resident season open 10-12 October on public lands only. The daily limit was 3 cock pheasants, possession 15. To hunt pheasants, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game licenses; nonresidents were required to obtain adult or youth small game or nonresident shooting preserve licenses. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. No shooting preserve license holders were surveyed and none of their harvest is included in any of the data in this report.

In 2015, there were 91,789 resident and 89,284 nonresident licenses issued that allowed holders to hunt pheasants. Approximately 10% of residents and nonresidents were surveyed for the upland bird seasons. Survey response rates were 65% for residents and 67% for nonresidents.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting pheasants, there were a projected 65,135 resident (19,827 small game, 31,643 combination, 4,574 senior combination, 4,742 youth small game, 4,350 junior combination) and 84,901 nonresident (82,576 small game, 2,325 youth small game) pheasant hunters.

A projected total of 1,255,878 pheasants were harvested (517,942 by residents, 737,936 by nonresidents) during the 2015 seasons. When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), resident upland bird hunters reported an average satisfaction rating of 4.98 while nonresidents reported a higher satisfaction rating of 5.49.

Approximately 12,995 residents participated in the early, resident-only season. The projected harvest for this season was 25,007 birds.

The Youth-only season overall participation rate was approximately 6.0% (5.4% Combination license, 3.3% Senior Combination, 6.3% Small Game, 4.5% Junior Combination, 16.6% Youth Small Game); nonresidents were not surveyed on their participation in this season.

The five counties with the highest reported harvests from highest to lowest were Tripp, Lyman, Brown, Brule, and Spink.

Comparison of the 2006 - 2015 Pheasant season statistics

Year	Resident Hunters					Nonresident Hunters				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2006	79,955	881,904	7.63	11.03	4.99	98,213	964,452	4.29	9.82	5.71
2007	77,788	969,238	7.88	12.46	5.39	103,048	1,153,107	4.61	11.19	6.00
2008	75,978	877,546	7.33	11.55	5.31	100,254	1,058,682	4.49	10.56	5.86
2009	69,949	715,578	7.14	10.23	4.93	97,350	932,613	4.33	9.58	5.59
2010	72,465	803,637	7.16	11.09	5.20	100,189	1,027,939	4.42	10.26	5.88
2011	69,120	644,412	6.83	9.68	4.78	95,077	910,894	4.46	9.63	5.63
2012	69,240	599,675	6.92	9.09	4.65	93,801	829,198	4.35	8.90	5.14
2013	57,647	368,567	6.33	7.15	4.11	74,413	561,445	3.99	7.74	4.95
2014	61,776	504,144	6.31	8.32	4.85	79,195	695,660	4.16	8.79	5.52
2015	65,135	517,942	6.17	8.06	4.98	84,901	737,936	4.15	8.71	5.49

South Dakota Game Report No 2016-01 - 2015 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections
Corey Huxoll

<u>PHEASANT HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2015</u>									
Revised: 18 May 2016									
	RESIDENT TOTALS BY LICENSE TYPE						NONRESIDENT TOTALS		
	Small Game	Combo	Senior Combo	Junior Combo	Youth SmGm	Sum Estimates	Nonres Sm Game	Youth Sm Game	Sum Estimates
Licenses Sold	23,553	47,105	7,739	8,219	5,173	91,789	86,718	2,566	89,284
Projected ACTIVE UPLAND BIRD HUNTERS	19,968	31,994	4,614	4,768	4,369	65,713	83,001	2,325	85,326
Number Sampled by Survey	1,984	4,021	655	631	436	7,727	7,620	206	7,826
Number Responded to Survey	1,163	2,687	577	312	283	5,022	5,168	104	5,272
% Responded and Participated in Season	85%	68%	60%	58%	84%	71%	98%	93%	98%
Responded and Participated in Season	986	1,825	344	181	239	3,575	5,077	97	5,174
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	177	862	233	131	44	1,447	91	7	98
Survey Response Rate	58.6%	66.8%	88.1%	49.4%	64.9%	65.0%	67.8%	50.5%	67.4%
No. Hunters Reporting Pheasant Days	979	1,805	341	180	238	3,543	5,051	97	5,148
Sum Pheasant Hunted Days	5,067	12,071	2,298	1,186	1,230	21,852	21,055	319	21,374
Average Days Hunted Pheasants	5.18	6.69	6.74	6.59	5.17	6.17	4.17	3.29	4.15
Sum Pheasants Bagged	6,126	17,068	2,795	1,292	1,266	28,547	44,264	596	44,860
Average Pheasant Bag for Season	6.26	9.46	8.20	7.18	5.32	8.06	8.76	6.14	8.71
Projected Days Pheasant Hunting	102,617	211,613	30,822	31,243	22,483	398,778	344,217	7,647	351,864
Projected No. Pheasant Hunters	19,827	31,643	4,574	4,742	4,350	65,135	82,576	2,325	84,901
Projected Pheasant Bag	124,063	299,214	37,488	34,035	23,141	517,942	723,650	14,287	737,936
LCI (95%)	112,732	280,680	32,029	26,673	17,315	493,415	710,106	11,523	724,155
UCI (95%)	135,480	318,013	43,151	41,771	29,062	542,430	737,133	17,104	751,744
TOTAL PHEASANT HARVEST =							1,255,878		
LCI (95%) =							1,227,800		
UCI (95%) =							1,284,033		
<u>RESIDENT-ONLY OPENING WEEKEND:</u>									
No. Hunters Reporting Pheasant Days	161	372	72	43	63	711	-	-	-
Sum Pheasant Hunted Days	263	573	116	63	92	1,107	-	-	-
Average Days Hunted Pheasants	1.63	1.54	1.61	1.47	1.46	1.56	-	-	-
Sum Pheasants Bagged	276	818	113	79	81	1,367	-	-	-
Average Pheasant Bag for Weekend	1.71	2.20	1.57	1.84	1.29	1.92	-	-	-
Projected Days Pheasant Hunting	5,326	10,045	1,556	1,660	1,682	20,233	-	-	-
Projected No. Pheasant Hunters	3,261	6,521	966	1,133	1,152	12,995	-	-	-
Projected Pheasant Bag	5,590	14,340	1,516	2,081	1,481	25,007	-	-	-
RESIDENT-ONLY WEEKEND PHEASANT HARVEST =							25,007		
<u>MENTORED YOUTH PARTICIPATION:</u>									
No. Hunters Reporting Participation	43	121	8	NA	NA	172	-	-	-
Projected No. Hunters Participating	871	2,121	107			3,099	-	-	-
Percent Hunters Participating	3.7%	4.5%	1.4%			3.9%	-	-	-
Upland Bird Hunters Mean Satisfaction Score *	5.00	4.97	4.77	5.09	5.24	4.98	5.49	5.50	5.49
* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1="very dissatisfied" and 7="very satisfied"									

* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1="very dissatisfied" and 7="very satisfied"

RESIDENT-ONLY WEEKEND 2015 PHEASANT SEASON PARTICIPATION AND BAG				
<i>Last Revised: 19 May 2016</i>				
	# Days Hunted	# Responded	% of Total	Ave. Bag
Residents	0	4,311	85.8%	
	1	397	7.9%	1.12
	2	232	4.6%	2.37
	3	82	1.6%	4.55

2015 YOUTH-ONLY PHEASANT SEASON PARTICIPATION			
<i>Last Revised: 19 May 2016</i>			
License Type	Number Participated	Did Not Participate	Percent Participated
Small Game	73	1,090	6.3%
Combination	146	2,541	5.4%
Senior Combination	19	558	3.3%
Youth Small Game	47	236	16.6%
Junior Combination	14	298	4.5%
Total	299	4,723	6.0%

South Dakota Game Report No 2016-01 - 2015 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections
Corey Huxoll

Total Pheasant Harvest Distribution by County 2015							
COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION			HARVEST DISTRIBUTION			Birds/Hunter **
	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	
Minnehaha	2,041	1.4	2,108	10,461	0.8	10,669	5.1
Pennington	305	0.2	315	1,670	0.1	1,703	5.5
Brown	7,783	5.3	7,991	64,640	5.2	65,911	8.3
Beadle	5,460	3.7	5,606	47,825	3.9	48,765	8.8
Codington	2,600	1.8	2,676	15,316	1.2	15,618	5.9
Brookings	2,347	1.6	2,419	12,187	1.0	12,428	5.2
Yankton	1,225	0.8	1,262	8,251	0.7	8,414	6.7
Davison	4,065	2.8	4,168	34,873	2.8	35,557	8.6
Lawrence	18	0.0	19	18	0.0	19	1.0
Aurora	4,737	3.2	4,861	41,892	3.4	42,714	8.8
Bennett	855	0.6	880	5,230	0.4	5,334	6.1
Bon Homme	964	0.7	994	6,006	0.5	6,125	6.2
Brule	7,276	5.0	7,462	59,847	4.9	61,020	8.2
Buffalo	545	0.4	559	4,818	0.4	4,912	8.8
Butte	105	0.1	108	601	0.0	613	5.7
Campbell	2,045	1.4	2,098	18,899	1.5	19,271	9.2
Charles Mix	4,000	2.7	4,106	34,061	2.8	34,729	8.5
Clark	3,159	2.2	3,244	23,430	1.9	23,890	7.4
Clay	593	0.4	612	3,186	0.3	3,249	5.4
Corson	937	0.6	965	8,527	0.7	8,695	9.1
Custer	145	0.1	150	2,413	0.2	2,461	16.6
Day	1,567	1.1	1,609	9,563	0.8	9,751	6.1
Deuel	1,099	0.8	1,134	5,659	0.5	5,771	5.2
Dewey	1,842	1.3	1,889	18,885	1.5	19,256	10.3
Douglas	1,732	1.2	1,778	15,622	1.3	15,929	9.0
Edmunds	3,750	2.6	3,851	39,618	3.2	40,397	10.6
Fall River	403	0.3	416	1,060	0.1	1,081	2.6
Faulk	4,297	2.9	4,407	43,831	3.6	44,690	10.2
Grant	472	0.3	488	3,385	0.3	3,452	7.2
Gregory	4,689	3.2	4,807	43,790	3.6	44,648	9.3
Haakon	803	0.5	828	5,238	0.4	5,342	6.5
Hamlin	1,539	1.1	1,585	8,794	0.7	8,967	5.7
Hand	4,556	3.1	4,678	36,126	2.9	36,836	7.9
Hanson	1,403	1.0	1,443	13,130	1.1	13,390	9.4
Harding	386	0.3	397	3,272	0.3	3,336	8.5
Hughes	5,030	3.4	5,168	45,816	3.7	46,717	9.1
Hutchinson	2,439	1.7	2,509	20,294	1.6	20,694	8.3
Hyde	1,132	0.8	1,162	9,872	0.8	10,066	8.7
Jackson	305	0.2	315	1,012	0.1	1,032	3.3
Jerauld	1,881	1.3	1,932	16,777	1.4	17,108	8.9
Jones	1,561	1.1	1,603	12,789	1.0	13,040	8.2
Kingsbury	1,948	1.3	2,005	14,801	1.2	15,093	7.6
Lake	1,520	1.0	1,569	9,950	0.8	10,148	6.5
Lincoln	1,127	0.8	1,164	5,092	0.4	5,193	4.5
Lyman	6,876	4.7	7,050	64,817	5.3	66,088	9.4
McCook	1,422	1.0	1,468	14,318	1.2	14,602	10.1
McPherson	2,599	1.8	2,665	23,651	1.9	24,114	9.1
Marshall	961	0.7	987	5,512	0.4	5,621	5.7
Meade	156	0.1	160	934	0.1	952	6.0
Mellette	391	0.3	401	3,285	0.3	3,349	8.4
Miner	2,831	1.9	2,912	29,996	2.4	30,588	10.6
Moody	829	0.6	855	5,798	0.5	5,914	7.0
Perkins	1,888	1.3	1,944	17,187	1.4	17,525	9.1
Potter	3,814	2.6	3,914	38,130	3.1	38,879	10.0
Roberts	1,065	0.7	1,098	6,089	0.5	6,209	5.7
Sanborn	2,790	1.9	2,867	22,628	1.8	23,074	8.1
Spink	6,320	4.3	6,484	58,697	4.8	59,849	9.3
Stanley	1,565	1.1	1,607	13,886	1.1	14,159	8.9
Sully	2,634	1.8	2,707	26,787	2.2	27,315	10.2
Tripp	7,733	5.3	7,924	68,514	5.6	69,854	8.9
Turner	1,308	0.9	1,349	7,484	0.6	7,632	5.7
Union	494	0.3	511	2,587	0.2	2,639	5.2
Walworth	3,156	2.2	3,239	27,372	2.2	27,908	8.7
Ziebach	327	0.2	338	3,800	0.3	3,876	11.6
Shannon	51	0.0	53	464	0.0	474	9.0
Todd	158	0.1	162	1,196	0.1	1,219	7.6
Unk/Unreported	3,983	-	-	24,222	-	-	6.1
TOTALS:	150,037	100%	150,037	1,255,878	100%	1,255,878	8.37
Last Revised: 17 May 2016							
* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.							
** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.							

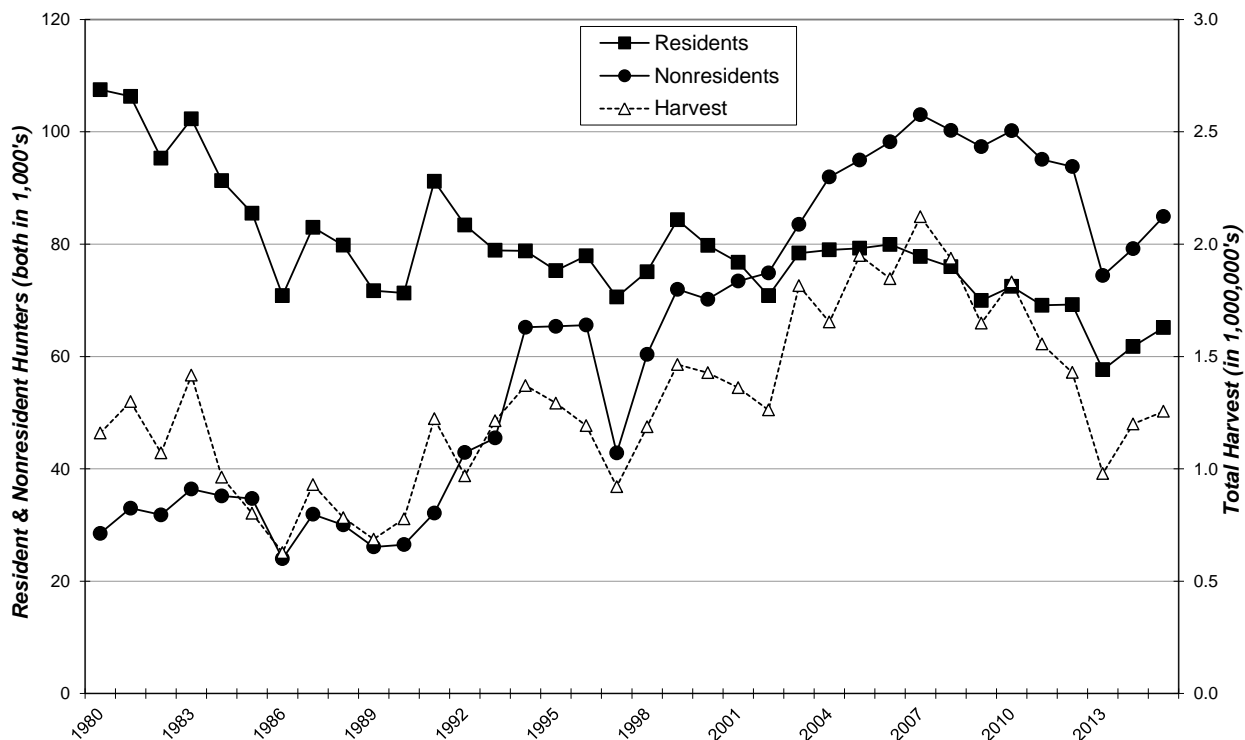
South Dakota Game Report No 2016-01 - 2015 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections
Corey Huxoll

Resident Pheasant Harvest Distribution by County 2015										
COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION					HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Birds/Hunter **
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *		# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	
Minnehaha	94	1,728	2.7	1,788		495	8,981	1.8	9,160	5.2
Pennington	13	239	0.4	247		73	1,324	0.3	1,351	5.5
Brown	165	3,033	4.8	3,138		1,462	26,526	5.2	27,055	8.7
Beadle	114	2,096	3.3	2,168		1,091	19,795	3.9	20,189	9.4
Codington	84	1,544	2.5	1,597		496	8,999	1.8	9,179	5.8
Brookings	90	1,655	2.6	1,712		484	8,781	1.7	8,957	5.3
Yankton	46	846	1.3	875		326	5,915	1.2	6,033	7.0
Davison	65	1,195	1.9	1,236		621	11,267	2.2	11,492	9.4
Lawrence	1	18	0.0	19		1	18	0.0	19	1.0
Aurora	89	1,636	2.6	1,693		793	14,388	2.8	14,675	8.8
Bennett	25	460	0.7	475		155	2,812	0.6	2,868	6.1
Bon Homme	39	717	1.1	742		215	3,901	0.8	3,979	5.4
Brule	115	2,114	3.4	2,187		876	15,894	3.1	16,211	7.5
Buffalo	9	165	0.3	171		57	1,034	0.2	1,055	6.3
Butte	3	55	0.1	57		15	272	0.1	278	4.9
Campbell	35	643	1.0	666		436	7,911	1.6	8,068	12.3
Charles Mix	83	1,526	2.4	1,578		637	11,557	2.3	11,788	7.6
Clark	66	1,213	1.9	1,255		450	8,165	1.6	8,327	6.7
Clay	26	478	0.8	494		152	2,758	0.5	2,813	5.8
Corson	33	607	1.0	628		227	4,119	0.8	4,201	6.8
Custer	7	129	0.2	133		133	2,413	0.5	2,461	18.8
Day	35	643	1.0	666		246	4,463	0.9	4,552	6.9
Deuel	49	901	1.4	932		243	4,409	0.9	4,497	4.9
Dewey	32	588	0.9	609		321	5,824	1.1	5,940	9.9
Douglas	35	643	1.0	666		298	5,407	1.1	5,515	8.4
Edmunds	82	1,508	2.4	1,559		917	16,638	3.3	16,969	11.0
Fall River	21	386	0.6	399		53	962	0.2	981	2.5
Faulk	66	1,213	1.9	1,255		685	12,428	2.4	12,676	10.2
Grant	23	423	0.7	437		153	2,776	0.5	2,831	6.6
Gregory	64	1,177	1.9	1,217		622	11,285	2.2	11,510	9.6
Haakon	32	588	0.9	609		208	3,774	0.7	3,849	6.4
Hamlin	55	1,011	1.6	1,046		297	5,389	1.1	5,496	5.3
Hand	98	1,802	2.9	1,864		730	13,245	2.6	13,509	7.4
Hanson	44	809	1.3	837		478	8,673	1.7	8,845	10.7
Harding	12	221	0.4	228		67	1,216	0.2	1,240	5.5
Hughes	122	2,243	3.6	2,320		1,080	19,595	3.9	19,986	8.7
Hutchinson	69	1,269	2.0	1,312		580	10,523	2.1	10,733	8.3
Hyde	23	423	0.7	437		205	3,719	0.7	3,794	8.8
Jackson	13	239	0.4	247		44	798	0.2	814	3.3
Jerauld	44	809	1.3	837		446	8,092	1.6	8,253	10.0
Jones	32	588	0.9	609		247	4,481	0.9	4,571	7.6
Kingsbury	62	1,140	1.8	1,179		522	9,471	1.9	9,660	8.3
Lake	71	1,305	2.1	1,350		436	7,911	1.6	8,068	6.1
Lincoln	55	1,011	1.6	1,046		248	4,500	0.9	4,589	4.5
Lyman	104	1,912	3.0	1,978		1,139	20,665	4.1	21,077	10.8
McCook	63	1,158	1.8	1,198		703	12,755	2.5	13,009	11.0
McPherson	40	735	1.2	761		357	6,477	1.3	6,606	8.8
Marshall	20	368	0.6	380		137	2,486	0.5	2,535	6.8
Meade	4	74	0.1	76		27	490	0.1	500	6.7
Mellette	6	110	0.2	114		26	472	0.1	481	4.3
Miner	84	1,544	2.5	1,597		966	17,527	3.5	17,876	11.3
Moody	37	680	1.1	704		267	4,844	1.0	4,941	7.1
Perkins	65	1,195	1.9	1,236		474	8,600	1.7	8,771	7.2
Potter	72	1,324	2.1	1,369		738	13,390	2.6	13,657	10.1
Roberts	40	735	1.2	761		215	3,901	0.8	3,979	5.3
Sanborn	71	1,305	2.1	1,350		608	11,031	2.2	11,251	8.5
Spink	115	2,114	3.4	2,187		1,100	19,958	3.9	20,356	9.4
Stanley	34	625	1.0	647		351	6,368	1.3	6,495	10.2
Sully	67	1,232	2.0	1,274		723	13,118	2.6	13,379	10.6
Tripp	95	1,747	2.8	1,807		719	13,045	2.6	13,305	7.5
Turner	55	1,011	1.6	1,046		291	5,280	1.0	5,385	5.2
Union	26	478	0.8	494		129	2,341	0.5	2,387	4.9
Walworth	64	1,177	1.9	1,217		456	8,273	1.6	8,438	7.0
Ziebach	16	294	0.5	304		204	3,701	0.7	3,775	12.6
Shannon	1	18	0.0	19		12	218	0.0	222	11.8
Todd	5	92	0.1	95		26	472	0.1	481	5.1
Unk/Unreported	118	2,169	-	-		558	10,124	-	-	4.7
TOTALS:	3,543	65,135	100%	65,135		28,547	517,942	100%	517,942	7.95
Last Revised: 17 May 2016										
* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.										
** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.										

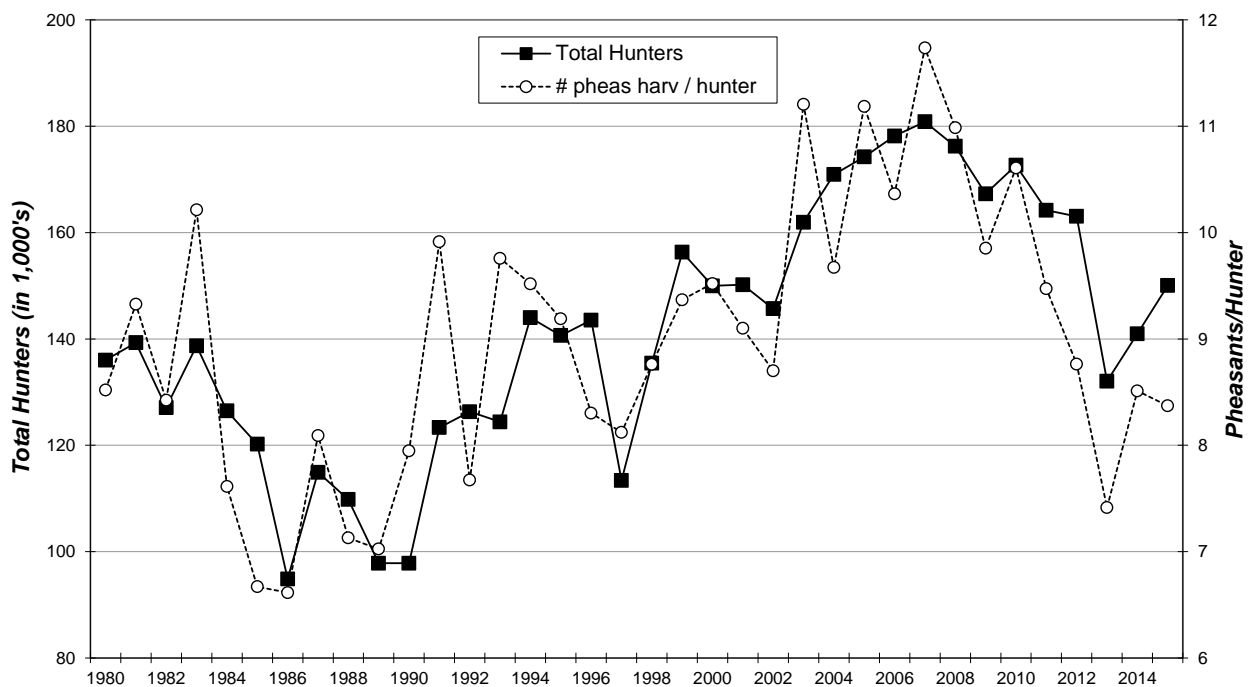
South Dakota Game Report No 2016-01 - 2015 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections
Corey Huxoll

Nonresident Pheasant Harvest Distribution by County 2015									
COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION				HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Birds/Hunter **
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	
Minnehaha	19	313	0.4	320	90	1,480	0.2	1,509	4.7
Pennington	4	66	0.1	67	21	345	0.0	352	5.2
Brown	288	4,750	5.7	4,853	2,317	38,114	5.3	38,856	8.0
Beadle	204	3,364	4.0	3,438	1,704	28,030	3.9	28,576	8.3
Codington	64	1,055	1.3	1,079	384	6,317	0.9	6,440	6.0
Brookings	42	693	0.8	708	207	3,405	0.5	3,471	4.9
Yankton	23	379	0.5	388	142	2,336	0.3	2,381	6.2
Davison	174	2,870	3.5	2,932	1,435	23,605	3.3	24,065	8.2
Lawrence	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Aurora	188	3,101	3.7	3,168	1,672	27,504	3.8	28,040	8.9
Bennett	24	396	0.5	404	147	2,418	0.3	2,465	6.1
Bon Homme	15	247	0.3	253	128	2,106	0.3	2,147	8.5
Brule	313	5,162	6.2	5,275	2,672	43,954	6.1	44,810	8.5
Buffalo	23	379	0.5	388	230	3,783	0.5	3,857	10.0
Butte	3	49	0.1	51	20	329	0.0	335	6.6
Campbell	85	1,402	1.7	1,432	668	10,988	1.5	11,202	7.8
Charles Mix	150	2,474	3.0	2,528	1,368	22,503	3.1	22,942	9.1
Clark	118	1,946	2.3	1,989	928	15,265	2.1	15,563	7.8
Clay	7	115	0.1	118	26	428	0.1	436	3.7
Corson	20	330	0.4	337	268	4,409	0.6	4,494	13.4
Custer	1	16	0.0	17	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Day	56	924	1.1	944	310	5,099	0.7	5,199	5.5
Deuel	12	198	0.2	202	76	1,250	0.2	1,275	6.3
Dewey	76	1,253	1.5	1,281	794	13,061	1.8	13,315	10.4
Douglas	66	1,088	1.3	1,112	621	10,215	1.4	10,414	9.4
Edmunds	136	2,243	2.7	2,292	1,397	22,980	3.2	23,428	10.2
Fall River	1	16	0.0	17	6	99	0.0	101	6.0
Faulk	187	3,084	3.7	3,151	1,909	31,403	4.3	32,014	10.2
Grant	3	49	0.1	51	37	609	0.1	620	12.3
Gregory	213	3,513	4.2	3,590	1,976	32,505	4.5	33,138	9.3
Haakon	13	214	0.3	219	89	1,464	0.2	1,493	6.8
Hamlin	32	528	0.6	539	207	3,405	0.5	3,471	6.5
Hand	167	2,754	3.3	2,814	1,391	22,882	3.2	23,327	8.3
Hanson	36	594	0.7	607	271	4,458	0.6	4,545	7.5
Harding	10	165	0.2	169	125	2,056	0.3	2,096	12.5
Hughes	169	2,787	3.4	2,848	1,594	26,221	3.6	26,732	9.4
Hutchinson	71	1,171	1.4	1,197	594	9,771	1.3	9,961	8.3
Hyde	43	709	0.9	725	374	6,152	0.8	6,272	8.7
Jackson	4	66	0.1	67	13	214	0.0	218	3.2
Jerauld	65	1,072	1.3	1,095	528	8,685	1.2	8,855	8.1
Jones	59	973	1.2	994	505	8,307	1.1	8,469	8.5
Kingsbury	49	808	1.0	826	324	5,330	0.7	5,434	6.6
Lake	13	214	0.3	219	124	2,040	0.3	2,079	9.5
Lincoln	7	115	0.1	118	36	592	0.1	604	5.1
Lyman	301	4,964	6.0	5,073	2,684	44,151	6.1	45,011	8.9
McCook	16	264	0.3	270	95	1,563	0.2	1,593	5.9
McPherson	113	1,864	2.2	1,904	1,044	17,174	2.4	17,508	9.2
Marshall	36	594	0.7	607	184	3,027	0.4	3,086	5.1
Meade	5	82	0.1	84	27	444	0.1	453	5.4
Mellette	17	280	0.3	286	171	2,813	0.4	2,868	10.0
Miner	78	1,286	1.5	1,314	758	12,469	1.7	12,712	9.7
Moody	9	148	0.2	152	58	954	0.1	973	6.4
Perkins	42	693	0.8	708	522	8,587	1.2	8,754	12.4
Potter	151	2,490	3.0	2,545	1,504	24,740	3.4	25,222	9.9
Roberts	20	330	0.4	337	133	2,188	0.3	2,230	6.6
Sanborn	90	1,484	1.8	1,517	705	11,597	1.6	11,823	7.8
Spink	255	4,205	5.1	4,297	2,355	38,739	5.4	39,494	9.2
Stanley	57	940	1.1	961	457	7,518	1.0	7,664	8.0
Sully	85	1,402	1.7	1,432	831	13,670	1.9	13,936	9.8
Tripp	363	5,987	7.2	6,117	3,372	55,469	7.7	56,549	9.3
Turner	18	297	0.4	303	134	2,204	0.3	2,247	7.4
Union	1	16	0.0	17	15	247	0.0	252	15.0
Walworth	120	1,979	2.4	2,022	1,161	19,098	2.6	19,470	9.7
Ziebach	2	33	0.0	34	6	99	0.0	101	3.0
Shannon	2	33	0.0	34	15	247	0.0	252	7.5
Todd	4	66	0.1	67	44	724	0.1	738	11.0
Unk/Unreported	110	1,814	-	-	857	14,097	-	-	7.8
TOTALS	5,148	84,901	100%	84,901	44,860	737,936	100%	737,936	8.69
<i>Last Revised: 17 May 2016</i>									
<i>* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.</i>									
<i>** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.</i>									

SOUTH DAKOTA PHEASANT HARVEST 1980-2015



SOUTH DAKOTA PHEASANT HUNTERS AND AVERAGE SEASON HARVEST 1980-2015



PARTRIDGE

The 2015 partridge season covered 19 September 2015 - 3 January 2016 statewide. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. The daily limit was 5 birds, possession 15. To hunt partridge residents required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game licenses; nonresidents were required to obtain adult or youth small game or nonresident shooting preserve licenses. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. No shooting preserve license holders were surveyed and none of their harvest is included in any of the data in this report.

In 2015, there were 91,789 resident and 89,284 nonresident licenses issued that allowed holders to hunt partridge. Approximately 10% of residents and nonresidents were surveyed for the upland bird seasons. Survey response rates were 65% for residents and 67% for nonresidents.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting partridge, there were a projected 3,189 resident and 2,133 nonresident partridge hunters.

An estimated 10,859 partridge were harvested (5,840 by residents, 5,019 by nonresidents) during the 2015 season. When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), resident upland bird hunters reported an average satisfaction rating of 4.98 while nonresidents reported an average satisfaction rating of 5.49.

Comparison of the 2006 - 2015 partridge harvests

Year	Resident Hunters				Nonresident Hunters			
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Days Hunted	Ave Bag	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Days Hunted	Ave Bag
2006	2,551	4,974	6.87	1.95	2,045	3,681	4.23	1.80
2007	3,767	7,760	8.01	2.06	3,160	6,573	4.66	2.08
2008	2,916	6,065	7.16	2.08	2,945	6,155	4.51	2.09
2009	2,687	4,675	7.23	1.74	2,511	3,716	4.36	1.48
2010	2,361	5,383	8.00	2.28	2,286	4,092	4.71	1.79
2011	2,335	3,719	3.77	1.57	1,889	3,771	4.09	2.01
2012	2,903	4,338	4.75	1.51	3,231	6,295	3.97	1.95
2013	2,666	2,990	7.09	1.13	1,926	2,761	4.23	1.43
2014	2,355	5,942	6.27	2.43	1,985	3,609	4.13	1.82
2015	3,189	5,840	5.63	1.85	2,133	5,019	4.05	3.08

South Dakota Game Report No 2016-01 - 2015 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections
Corey Huxoll

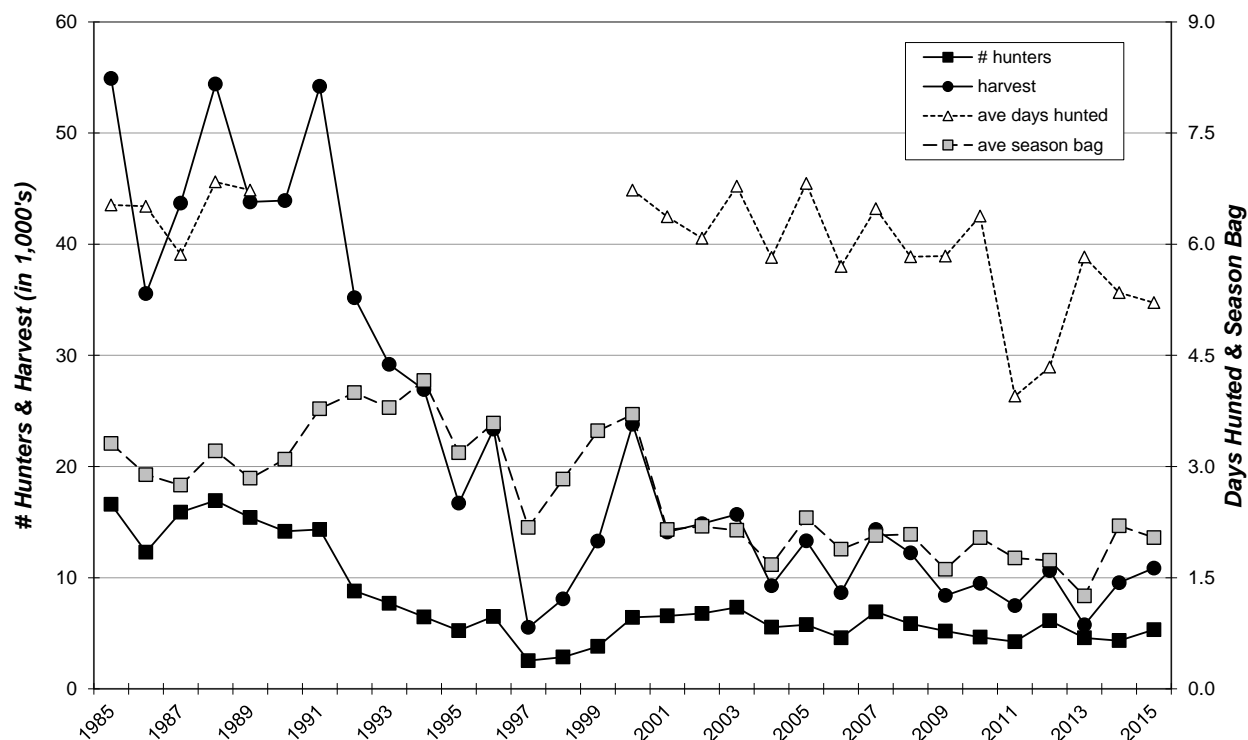
PARTRIDGE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2015

Revised: 18 May 2016

	RESIDENT TOTALS BY LICENSE TYPE						NONRESIDENT TOTALS		
	Small Game	Combo	Senior Combo	Junior Combo	Youth SmGm	Sum Estimates	Nonres Sm Game	Youth Sm Game	Sum Estimates
Licenses Sold	23,553	47,105	7,739	8,219	5,173	91,789	86,718	2,566	89,284
Projected ACTIVE UPLAND BIRD HUNTERS	19,968	31,994	4,614	4,768	4,369	65,713	83,001	2,325	85,326
Number Sampled by Survey	1,984	4,021	655	631	436	7,727	7,620	206	7,826
Number Responded to Survey	1,163	2,687	577	312	283	5,022	5,168	104	5,272
% Responded and Participated in Season	85%	68%	60%	58%	84%	71%	98%	93%	98%
Responded and Participated in Season	986	1,825	344	181	239	3,575	5,077	97	5,174
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	177	862	233	131	44	1,447	91	7	98
Survey Response Rate	58.6%	66.8%	88.1%	49.4%	64.9%	65.0%	67.8%	50.5%	67.4%
No. Hunters Reporting Partridge Days	37	106	14	8	10	175	129	1	130
Sum Partridge Hunted Days	189	612	84	37	63	985	607	5	612
Average Days Hunted Partridge	5.11	5.77	6.00	4.63	6.30	5.63	4.71	0.00	4.71
Sum Partridge Bagged	56	232	14	6	16	324	307	0	307
Average Season Partridge Bag	1.51	2.19	1.00	0.75	1.60	1.85	2.38	0.00	2.36
Projected Days Partridge Hunting	3,828	10,729	1,127	975	1,152	17,809	9,924	0	9,924
Projected No. Partridge Hunters	749	1,858	188	211	183	3,189	2,109	24	2,133
Projected Partridge Bag	1,134	4,067	188	158	292	5,840	5,019	0	5,019
TOTAL PARTRIDGE HARVEST =							10,859		
Upland Bird Hunters Mean Satisfaction Score *	5.00	4.97	4.77	5.09	5.24	4.98	5.49	5.50	5.49

* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1="very dissatisfied" and 7="very satisfied"

STATEWIDE PARTRIDGE HARVEST, 1985-2015



South Dakota Game Report No 2016-01 - 2015 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections
Corey Huxoll

Resident Partridge Harvest Distribution by County 2015										
COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION				HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Birds/Hunter **	
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *		
Minnehaha	3	55	1.9	59	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Pennington	14	255	8.6	276	37	667	11.8	690	2.6	
Brown	4	73	2.5	79	2	36	0.6	37	0.5	
Beadle	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Codington	2	36	1.2	39	4	72	1.3	75	2.0	
Brookings	2	36	1.2	39	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Yankton	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Davison	1	18	0.6	20	4	72	1.3	75	4.0	
Lawrence	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Aurora	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Bennett	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Bon Homme	2	36	1.2	39	1	18	0.3	19	0.5	
Brule	1	18	0.6	20	3	54	1.0	56	3.0	
Buffalo	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Butte	3	55	1.9	59	1	18	0.3	19	0.3	
Campbell	1	18	0.6	20	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Charles Mix	2	36	1.2	39	2	36	0.6	37	1.0	
Clark	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Clay	2	36	1.2	39	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Corson	10	182	6.2	197	18	324	5.8	336	1.8	
Custer	1	18	0.6	20	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Day	2	36	1.2	39	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Deuel	1	18	0.6	20	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Dewey	9	164	5.6	177	24	433	7.7	448	2.6	
Douglas	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Edmunds	1	18	0.6	20	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Fall River	2	36	1.2	39	1	18	0.3	19	0.5	
Faulk	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Grant	4	73	2.5	79	5	90	1.6	93	1.2	
Gregory	2	36	1.2	39	1	18	0.3	19	0.5	
Haakon	3	55	1.9	59	1	18	0.3	19	0.3	
Hamlin	1	18	0.6	20	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Hand	1	18	0.6	20	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Hanson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Harding	7	128	4.3	138	48	865	15.3	896	6.8	
Hughes	2	36	1.2	39	2	36	0.6	37	1.0	
Hutchinson	1	18	0.6	20	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Hyde	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Jackson	1	18	0.6	20	2	36	0.6	37	2.0	
Jerauld	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Jones	1	18	0.6	20	10	180	3.2	187	9.9	
Kingsbury	1	18	0.6	20	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Lake	2	36	1.2	39	2	36	0.6	37	1.0	
Lincoln	1	18	0.6	20	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Lyman	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
McCook	2	36	1.2	39	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
McPherson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Marshall	2	36	1.2	39	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Meade	13	237	8.0	256	23	415	7.3	429	1.7	
Mellette	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Miner	2	36	1.2	39	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Moody	1	18	0.6	20	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Perkins	25	456	15.4	492	80	1,442	25.6	1,493	3.2	
Potter	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Roberts	4	73	2.5	79	8	144	2.6	149	2.0	
Sanborn	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Spink	2	36	1.2	39	1	18	0.3	19	0.5	
Stanley	3	55	1.9	59	5	90	1.6	93	1.6	
Sully	2	36	1.2	39	6	108	1.9	112	3.0	
Tripp	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Turner	2	36	1.2	39	5	90	1.6	93	2.5	
Union	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Walworth	4	73	2.5	79	2	36	0.6	37	0.5	
Ziebach	10	182	6.2	197	15	270	4.8	280	1.5	
Shannon	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Todd	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Unknown	13	237	-	-	11	198	-	-	0.8	
TOTALS:	175	3,189	100%	3,189	324	5,840	100%	5,840	1.83	
Last Revised: 17 May 2016										
* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.										
** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.										

South Dakota Game Report No 2016-01 - 2015 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections
Corey Huxoll

Nonresident Partridge Harvest Distribution by County 2015										
COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION					HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Birds/Hunter **
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *		# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	
Minnehaha	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Pennington	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Brown	1	16	0.8	18		5	82	1.9	97	5.0
Beadle	1	16	0.8	18		1	16	0.4	19	1.0
Codington	1	16	0.8	18		2	33	0.8	39	2.0
Brookings	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Yankton	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Davison	1	16	0.8	18		6	98	2.3	116	6.0
Lawrence	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Aurora	1	16	0.8	18		0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Bennett	1	16	0.8	18		0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Bon Homme	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Brule	1	16	0.8	18		13	213	5.0	252	13.0
Buffalo	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Butte	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Campbell	2	33	1.7	36		4	65	1.5	78	2.0
Chas Mix	2	33	1.7	36		2	33	0.8	39	1.0
Clark	2	33	1.7	36		10	163	3.9	194	5.0
Clay	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Corson	7	115	5.9	127		15	245	5.8	291	2.1
Custer	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Day	1	16	0.8	18		0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Deuel	1	16	0.8	18		8	131	3.1	155	8.0
Dewey	19	312	16.1	343		40	654	15.4	775	2.1
Douglas	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Edmunds	3	49	2.5	54		1	16	0.4	19	0.3
Fall River	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Faulk	1	16	0.8	18		6	98	2.3	116	6.0
Grant	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Gregory	2	33	1.7	36		6	98	2.3	116	3.0
Haakon	4	66	3.4	72		16	262	6.2	310	4.0
Hamlin	1	16	0.8	18		2	33	0.8	39	2.0
Hand	5	82	4.2	90		2	33	0.8	39	0.4
Hanson	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Harding	1	16	0.8	18		8	131	3.1	155	8.0
Hughes	4	66	3.4	72		22	360	8.5	426	5.5
Hutchinson	1	16	0.8	18		0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hyde	2	33	1.7	36		3	49	1.2	58	1.5
Jackson	1	16	0.8	18		1	16	0.4	19	1.0
Jerauld	1	16	0.8	18		0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Jones	1	16	0.8	18		6	98	2.3	116	6.0
Kingsbury	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Lake	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Lyman	3	49	2.5	54		1	16	0.4	19	0.3
McCook	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
McPherson	6	98	5.1	108		2	33	0.8	39	0.3
Marshall	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Meade	1	16	0.8	18		6	98	2.3	116	6.0
Mellette	1	16	0.8	18		0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Miner	1	16	0.8	18		0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Moody	1	16	0.8	18		1	16	0.4	19	1.0
Perkins	15	246	12.7	271		34	556	13.1	659	2.3
Potter	2	33	1.7	36		3	49	1.2	58	1.5
Roberts	1	16	0.8	18		0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Sanborn	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Spink	1	16	0.8	18		0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Stanley	7	115	5.9	127		11	180	4.2	213	1.6
Sully	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Tripp	4	66	3.4	72		5	82	1.9	97	1.2
Turner	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Union	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Walworth	3	49	2.5	54		10	163	3.9	194	3.3
Ziebach	4	66	3.4	72		7	114	2.7	136	1.7
Shannon	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Todd	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Unknown	12	197	-	-		48	785	-	-	4.0
TOTALS:	130	2,133	100.0%	2,133		307	5,019	100.0%	5,019	2.35
Last Revised: 17 May 2016										
* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.										
** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.										

PRAIRIE CHICKEN & SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

Historically, these two species, plus ruffed grouse, have been combined under the name "Prairie Grouse." In these reports, harvest estimates for these species were combined. In 2006, hunters were asked specifically how many of each species were harvested of the total harvest and 76% were identified as sharp-tailed grouse, 20% as prairie chickens, and 4% were unknown. They continue to be combined for the overall harvest estimates in this report.

The 2015 grouse season covered 19 September 2015 – 3 January 2016 statewide. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. The daily limit was 3 birds, possession 15. To hunt grouse residents required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game licenses; nonresidents were required to obtain adult or youth small game or nonresident shooting preserve licenses. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. No shooting preserve license holders were surveyed and none of their harvest is included in any of the data in this report.

In 2015, there were 91,789 resident and 89,284 nonresident licenses issued that allowed holders to hunt prairie grouse. Approximately 10% of residents and nonresidents were surveyed for the upland bird seasons. Survey response rates were 65% for residents and 67% for nonresidents.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting grouse, there were a projected 7,866 resident and 5,032 nonresident grouse hunters.

From the survey responses, a projected total of 49,894 grouse were harvested (34,506 by residents, 15,388 by nonresidents) during the 2015 season.

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being very dissatisfied, and 7 being very satisfied), resident upland bird hunters reported an average rating of 4.98 while nonresidents reported a rating of 5.49.

A comparison of the 2006 - 2015 prairie grouse harvests

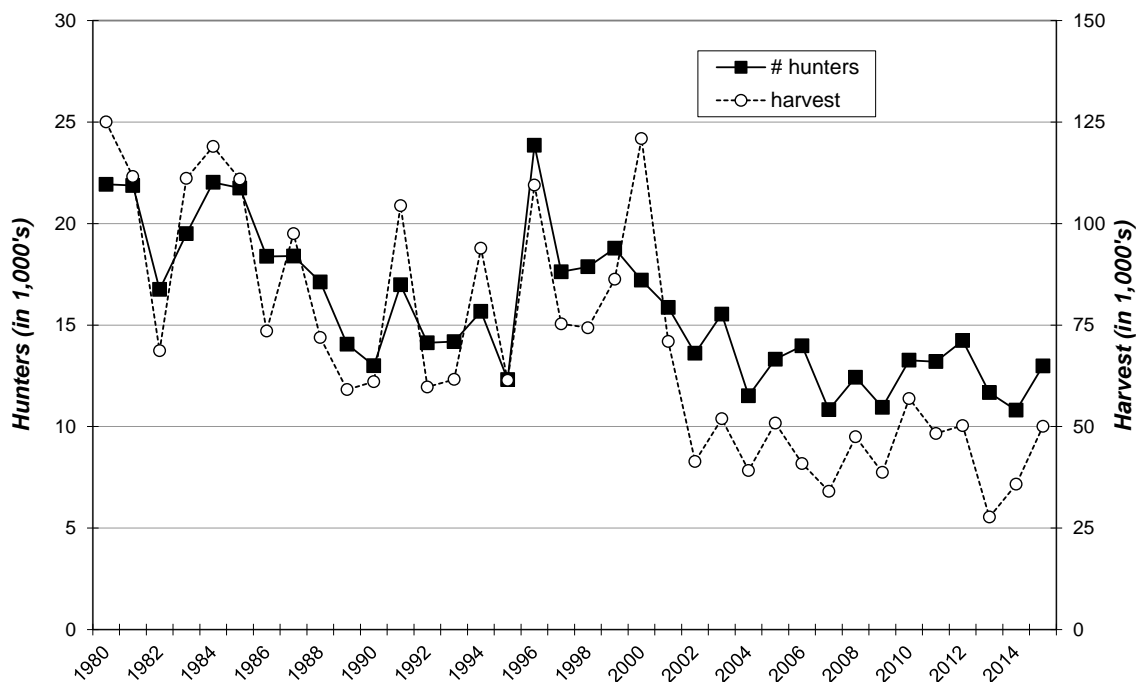
Year	Resident Hunters					Nonresident Hunters				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2006	7,836	27,269	4.02	3.48	4.99	6,135	13,620	3.92	2.22	5.71
2007	6,164	23,177	4.37	3.76	5.39	4,663	10,865	3.70	2.33	6.00
2008	7,044	34,023	4.46	4.83	5.31	5,383	13,458	4.26	2.50	5.86
2009	6,377	26,018	4.41	4.08	4.93	4,571	12,662	4.19	2.77	5.59
2010	7,879	39,868	4.49	5.06	5.20	5,386	17,020	3.92	3.16	5.88
2011	6,789	27,581	4.19	4.09	4.78	6,407	20,718	4.01	3.26	5.63
2012	7,197	31,223	4.68	4.38	4.65	7,037	19,005	3.83	2.70	5.14
2013	7,149	19,858	4.28	2.76	4.11	4,523	7,840	3.87	1.73	4.95
2014	6,503	25,847	4.55	4.01	4.85	4,254	9,943	3.99	2.31	5.52
2015	7,866	34,506	4.72	4.40	4.98	5,032	15,388	4.05	3.08	5.49

South Dakota Game Report No 2016-01 - 2015 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections
Corey Huxoll

PRAIRIE GROUSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2015							NONRESIDENT TOTALS		
Revised: 18 May 2016									
	RESIDENT TOTALS BY LICENSE TYPE								
	Small Game	Combo	Senior Combo	Junior Combo	Youth SmGm	Sum Estimates	Nonres Sm Game	Youth Sm Game	Sum Estimates
Licenses Sold	23,553	47,105	7,739	8,219	5,173	91,789	86,718	2,566	89,284
Projected ACTIVE UPLAND BIRD HUNTERS	19,968	31,994	4,614	4,768	4,369	65,713	83,001	2,325	85,326
Number Sampled by Survey	1,984	4,021	655	631	436	7,727	7,620	206	7,826
Number Responded to Survey	1,163	2,687	577	312	283	5,022	5,168	104	5,272
% Responded and Participated in Season	85%	68%	60%	58%	84%	71%	98%	93%	98%
Responded and Participated in Season	986	1,825	344	181	239	3,575	5,077	97	5,174
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	177	862	233	131	44	1,447	91	7	98
Survey Response Rate	58.6%	66.8%	88.1%	49.4%	64.9%	65.0%	67.8%	50.5%	67.4%
No. Hunters Reporting Prairie Grouse Days	75	278	53	13	23	442	299	6	305
Sum Prairie Grouse Hunted Days	377	1,409	189	37	76	2,088	1,219	17	1,236
Average Days Hunted Prairie Grouse	5.03	5.07	3.57	2.85	3.30	4.72	4.08	2.83	4.05
Sum Prairie Grouse Bagged	272	1,391	157	32	91	1,943	931	7	938
Average Season Prairie Grouse Bag	3.63	5.00	2.96	2.46	3.96	4.40	3.11	1.17	3.08
Projected Days Prairie Grouse Hunting	7,635	24,701	2,535	975	1,389	37,235	19,929	408	20,336
Projected No. Prairie Grouse Hunters	1,519	4,874	711	342	420	7,866	4,888	144	5,032
Projected Prairie Grouse Bag	5,509	24,385	2,106	843	1,663	34,506	15,220	168	15,388
TOTAL PRAIRIE GROUSE HARVEST =							49,894		
Upland Bird Hunters Mean Satisfaction Score *	5.00	4.97	4.77	5.09	5.24	4.98	5.49	5.50	5.49

* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1="very dissatisfied" and 7="very satisfied"

PRAIRIE GROUSE HUNTERS & HARVEST 1980-2015



South Dakota Game Report No 2016-01 - 2015 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections
Corey Huxoll

Resident Grouse Harvest Distribution by County 2015										
COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION				HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Birds/Hunter	
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *		
Minnehaha	3	53	0.7	57	5	89	0.3	93	1.7	
Pennington	24	427	5.8	454	177	3,143	9.5	3,278	7.4	
Brown	3	53	0.7	57	4	71	0.2	74	1.3	
Beadle	1	18	0.2	19	3	53	0.2	56	3.0	
Codington	3	53	0.7	57	6	107	0.3	111	2.0	
Brookings	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Yankton	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Davison	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Lawrence	3	53	0.7	57	10	178	0.5	185	3.3	
Aurora	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Bennett	5	89	1.2	95	22	391	1.2	407	4.4	
Bon Homme	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Brule	4	71	1.0	76	19	337	1.0	352	4.7	
Buffalo	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Butte	9	160	2.2	170	36	639	1.9	667	4.0	
Campbell	1	18	0.2	19	10	178	0.5	185	10.0	
Charles Mix	7	125	1.7	132	14	249	0.8	259	2.0	
Clark	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Clay	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Corson	18	320	4.3	340	87	1,545	4.7	1,611	4.8	
Custer	4	71	1.0	76	6	107	0.3	111	1.5	
Day	3	53	0.7	57	6	107	0.3	111	2.0	
Deuel	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Dewey	17	303	4.1	321	106	1,882	5.7	1,963	6.2	
Douglas	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Edmunds	2	36	0.5	38	2	36	0.1	37	1.0	
Fall River	2	36	0.5	38	1	18	0.1	19	0.5	
Faulk	2	36	0.5	38	3	53	0.2	56	1.5	
Grant	7	125	1.7	132	20	355	1.1	370	2.9	
Gregory	16	285	3.8	303	38	675	2.0	704	2.4	
Haakon	24	427	5.8	454	84	1,492	4.5	1,556	3.5	
Hamlin	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Hand	6	107	1.4	113	13	231	0.7	241	2.2	
Hanson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Harding	9	160	2.2	170	56	995	3.0	1,037	6.2	
Hughes	11	196	2.6	208	59	1,048	3.2	1,093	5.4	
Hutchinson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Hyde	2	36	0.5	38	24	426	1.3	445	12.0	
Jackson	9	160	2.2	170	30	533	1.6	556	3.3	
Jerauld	1	18	0.2	19	2	36	0.1	37	2.0	
Jones	11	196	2.6	208	37	657	2.0	685	3.4	
Kingsbury	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Lake	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Lincoln	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Lyman	26	463	6.3	492	76	1,350	4.1	1,408	2.9	
McCook	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
McPherson	6	107	1.4	113	12	213	0.6	222	2.0	
Marshall	1	18	0.2	19	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Meade	25	445	6.0	473	107	1,900	5.7	1,982	4.3	
Mellette	11	196	2.6	208	43	764	2.3	796	3.9	
Miner	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Moody	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Perkins	45	801	10.8	851	278	4,937	14.9	5,149	6.2	
Potter	2	36	0.5	38	9	160	0.5	167	4.5	
Roberts	4	71	1.0	76	13	231	0.7	241	3.2	
Sanborn	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Spink	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Stanley	39	694	9.4	737	175	3,108	9.4	3,241	4.5	
Sully	8	142	1.9	151	23	408	1.2	426	2.9	
Tripp	11	196	2.6	208	44	781	2.4	815	4.0	
Turner	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Union	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Walworth	8	142	1.9	151	17	302	0.9	315	2.1	
Ziebach	21	374	5.0	397	171	3,037	9.2	3,167	8.1	
Shannon	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
Todd	2	36	0.5	38	15	266	0.8	278	7.5	
Unknown	26	463	-	-	80	1,421	-	-	3.1	
TOTALS:	442	7,866	100.0%	7,866	1,943	34,506	100%	34,506	4.39	
Last Revised: 17 May 2016										
* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.										
** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.										

South Dakota Game Report No 2016-01 - 2015 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections
Corey Huxoll

Nonresident Grouse Harvest Distribution by County 2015										
COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION				HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Birds/Hunter	
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *		
Minnehaha	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Pennington	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Brown	3	49	1.0	52	3	49	0.3	51	1.0	1.0
Beadle	1	16	0.3	17	1	16	0.1	17	1.0	1.0
Codington	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Brookings	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Yankton	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Davison	1	16	0.3	17	10	164	1.1	170	9.9	9.9
Lawrence	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Aurora	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Bennett	10	165	3.4	174	19	312	2.1	322	1.9	1.9
Bon Homme	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Brule	6	99	2.1	104	4	66	0.4	68	0.7	0.7
Buffalo	2	33	0.7	35	14	230	1.5	238	7.0	7.0
Butte	1	16	0.3	17	1	16	0.1	17	1.0	1.0
Campbell	4	66	1.4	69	2	33	0.2	34	0.5	0.5
Chas Mix	2	33	0.7	35	1	16	0.1	17	0.5	0.5
Clark	1	16	0.3	17	1	16	0.1	17	1.0	1.0
Clay	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Corson	11	181	3.8	191	59	968	6.5	1,001	5.3	5.3
Custer	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Day	4	66	1.4	69	11	180	1.2	187	2.7	2.7
Deuel	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Dewey	37	610	12.8	642	153	2,510	16.9	2,596	4.1	4.1
Douglas	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Edmunds	1	16	0.3	17	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Fall River	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Faulk	1	16	0.3	17	3	49	0.3	51	3.0	3.0
Grant	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Gregory	10	165	3.4	174	9	148	1.0	153	0.9	0.9
Haakon	10	165	3.4	174	59	968	6.5	1,001	5.9	5.9
Hamlin	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Hand	11	181	3.8	191	7	115	0.8	119	0.6	0.6
Hanson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Harding	2	33	0.7	35	13	213	1.4	221	6.5	6.5
Hughes	12	198	4.1	208	28	459	3.1	475	2.3	2.3
Hutchinson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Hyde	3	49	1.0	52	4	66	0.4	68	1.3	1.3
Jackson	3	49	1.0	52	4	66	0.4	68	1.3	1.3
Jerauld	1	16	0.3	17	1	16	0.1	17	1.0	1.0
Jones	16	264	5.5	278	57	935	6.3	967	3.5	3.5
Kingsbury	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Lake	1	16	0.3	17	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Lincoln	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Lyman	27	445	9.3	468	51	837	5.6	865	1.9	1.9
McCook	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
McPherson	3	49	1.0	52	2	33	0.2	34	0.7	0.7
Marshall	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Meade	3	49	1.0	52	6	98	0.7	102	2.0	2.0
Mellette	4	66	1.4	69	26	427	2.9	441	6.5	6.5
Miner	1	16	0.3	17	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Moody	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Perkins	26	429	9.0	451	193	3,166	21.3	3,274	7.4	7.4
Potter	7	115	2.4	121	12	197	1.3	204	1.7	1.7
Roberts	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Sanborn	1	16	0.3	17	2	33	0.2	34	2.0	2.0
Spink	1	16	0.3	17	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Stanley	25	412	8.6	434	67	1,099	7.4	1,137	2.7	2.7
Sully	5	82	1.7	87	10	164	1.1	170	2.0	2.0
Tripp	18	297	6.2	312	30	492	3.3	509	1.7	1.7
Turner	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Union	1	16	0.3	17	4	66	0.4	68	4.0	4.0
Walworth	5	82	1.7	87	5	82	0.6	85	1.0	1.0
Ziebach	7	115	2.4	121	33	541	3.6	560	4.7	4.7
Shannon	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Todd	2	33	0.7	35	2	33	0.2	34	1.0	1.0
Unknown	15	247	-	-	31	509	-	-	2.1	2.1
TOTALS:	305	5,032	100%	5,032	938	15,388	100%	15,388	3.06	
Last Revised: 17 May 2016										
* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.										
** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.										

SAGE GROUSE

The first modern sage grouse hunting season was held in 1955. Between 1955 and 1980, the season was open only about half the years, primarily during the 1970s, and seasons were restrictive. Length of season ranged from 2 to 7 days, with many seasons held during the week with daily bag limits of 1 or 2 birds. In 1980, the population was declining and continued to decline until the mid-1980s. It then stabilized with some fluctuations from year to year. Currently, the population is considered too low to support having a hunting season. The sage grouse hunting season was re-opened in 2000 and closed again in 2013.

Comparison of the 2001-2015 Sage Grouse harvests

Year	# of Hunters (est. % of total)	Total Harvest	Harvest by County		Harvest by Age & Sex			
			Butte	Harding	Juv/Yr Male	Juv/Yr Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
2001	27 (77%)	12	4	8	2	3	5	2
2002*	32 (88%)	16	4	12	5	3	1	3
2003	36 (95%)	12	4	8	1	4	6	1
2004	53(95%)	25	8	17	5	12	8	0
2005	40 (95%)	26	9	17	6	10	8	2
2006	46 (95%)	15	0	15	7	4	2	2
2007	25	10	2	8	5	2	3	0
2008	24	17	5	12	3	5	6	3
2009	20	7	3	4	2	3	0	2
2010	26	12	9	3	1	0	6	5
2011	27	11	6	5	3	2	3	3
2012	35	9	2	7	0	0	3	6
2013	Season Closed							
2014	Season Closed							
2015	Season Closed							

*In 2002, only 12 of the 16 sage grouse harvested were checked in with GFP personnel, therefore, harvest by age and sex totals do not add up to the total harvest.

MOURNING DOVE

The 2015 mourning dove season was open 1 September -9 November statewide. The daily limit was 15 birds, possession 30. To hunt doves, residents were required to hold a small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game license; nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident small game or nonresident youth small game license. All hunters were also required to purchase a Migratory Bird Certificate.

In 2015, 29,115 resident and 89,284 nonresident licenses were issued to hunt doves. Approximately 17% of resident migratory bird hunters and 10% of nonresident small game hunters were surveyed for the mourning dove season. Survey response rates were 64% for residents and 67% for nonresidents.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting doves, there were an estimated 7,651 active dove hunters. The five counties with the highest projected dove harvest were Hughes, Charles Mix, Davison, Minnehaha, and Pennington.

An estimated total of 134,922 doves were harvested during the 2015 season. When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least, 7 being most satisfied), resident dove hunters reported an average satisfaction rating of 5.07, nonresidents 5.83.

Summary comparison of the 2006 - 2015 mourning dove seasons

Year	Resident Hunters					Nonresident Hunters				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2006	8,919	150,820	4.13	16.91	4.96	134	1,723	3.57	12.86	6.57
2007	7,722	125,174	4.19	16.21	4.98	439	10,694	3.86	24.36	5.79
2008	7,346	125,102	4.39	17.03	5.01	373	7,050	3.40	18.90	6.00
2009	6,892	114,821	4.34	16.66	4.93	285	6,698	4.44	23.50	5.81
2010	6,035	93,361	4.15	15.47	5.13	258	4,267	4.23	16.54	6.38
2011	6,112	82,291	3.50	13.46	5.27	332	6,563	3.65	19.79	5.41
2012	5,984	88,036	4.16	14.71	4.99	366	7,071	3.19	19.78	5.78
2013	6,752	113,367	4.56	16.79	5.06	210	2,061	2.67	9.80	5.27
2014	8,345	167,407	4.67	20.06	5.05	316	3,991	2.95	12.62	5.71
2015	7,255	127,217	4.66	17.53	5.07	396	7,705	3.29	19.46	5.83

MOURNING DOVE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2015

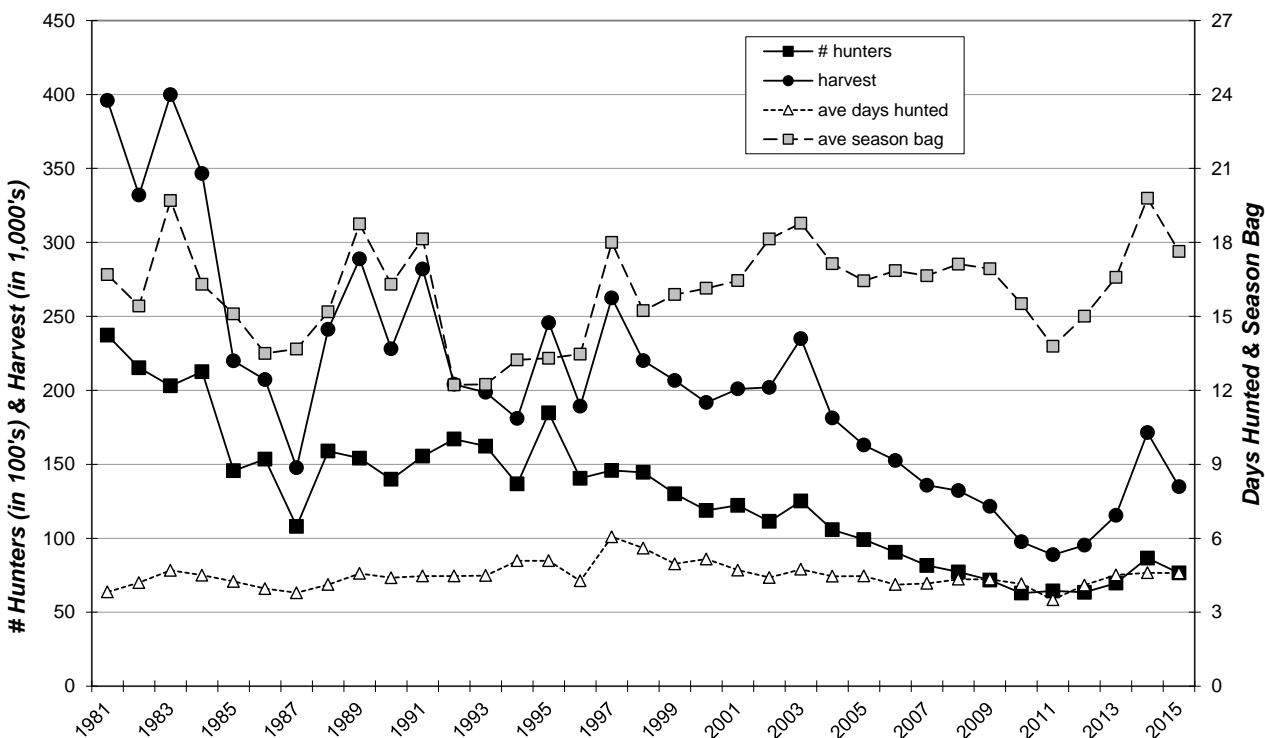
Last Revised: 2 June 2016

	Resident	Non Resident
Licenses Sold *	29,115	89,284
Unique License Holders	29,065	86,982
Projected ACTIVE MOURNING DOVE HUNTERS	7,255	396
Number Sampled by Survey	4,861	7,826
Number Responded to Survey	3,126	5,272
Responded and Participated in Season	779	24
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	2,347	5,248
Survey Response Rate	64.3%	67.4%
No. Hunters Reporting Dove Days	779	24
Total Reported Dove Hunted Days	3,631	79
Average Days Hunted Doves	4.66	3.29
Total Reported Doves Bagged	13,659	467
Average Dove Bag for Season	17.53	19.46
Projected Days Dove Hunting	33,818	1,303
Projected No. Dove Hunters	7,255	396
Projected Dove Bag	127,217	7,705
Avg Days Hunted		4.59
TOTAL DOVE HARVEST =		134,922
Dove Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*	5.01	5.83

* Nonresident number represents total number of small game licenses sold.

1 Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied.

STATEWIDE MOURNING DOVE HARVEST, 1981-2015



South Dakota Game Report No 2016-01 - 2015 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections
Corey Huxoll

Mourning Dove Harvest Distribution by County 2015									
COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION				HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Birds/Hunter **
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	
Minnehaha	63	600	8.1	616	785	7,498	5.7	7,631	12.5
Pennington	34	324	4.3	333	558	5,330	4.0	5,424	16.5
Brown	32	305	4.1	313	347	3,314	2.5	3,373	10.9
Beadle	19	181	2.4	186	179	1,710	1.3	1,740	9.4
Codington	24	229	3.1	235	478	4,566	3.4	4,646	20.0
Brookings	30	286	3.8	294	450	4,298	3.2	4,374	15.0
Yankton	23	219	2.9	225	298	2,846	2.1	2,897	13.0
Davison	34	324	4.3	333	544	5,196	3.9	5,288	16.0
Lawrence	6	57	0.8	59	169	1,614	1.2	1,643	28.2
Aurora	7	67	0.9	68	213	2,034	1.5	2,070	30.5
Bennett	8	76	1.0	78	147	1,404	1.1	1,429	18.4
Bon Homme	18	172	2.3	176	226	2,159	1.6	2,197	12.6
Brule	8	76	1.0	78	159	1,519	1.1	1,546	19.9
Buffalo	1	10	0.1	10	40	382	0.3	389	40.1
Butte	5	48	0.6	49	50	478	0.4	486	10.0
Campbell	5	48	0.6	49	97	926	0.7	943	19.4
Charles Mix	33	314	4.2	323	1,056	10,086	7.6	10,265	32.1
Clark	4	38	0.5	39	65	621	0.5	632	16.3
Clay	7	67	0.9	68	359	3,429	2.6	3,490	51.4
Corson	3	29	0.4	29	20	191	0.1	194	6.7
Custer	6	57	0.8	59	100	955	0.7	972	16.7
Day	10	95	1.3	98	167	1,595	1.2	1,623	16.7
Deuel	13	124	1.7	127	308	2,942	2.2	2,994	23.7
Dewey	1	10	0.1	10	25	239	0.2	243	25.1
Douglas	9	86	1.2	88	183	1,748	1.3	1,779	20.4
Edmunds	7	67	0.9	68	148	1,414	1.1	1,439	21.2
Fall River	13	124	1.7	127	133	1,270	1.0	1,293	10.3
Faulk	5	48	0.6	49	56	535	0.4	544	11.2
Grant	6	57	0.8	59	110	1,051	0.8	1,069	18.4
Gregory	7	67	0.9	68	80	764	0.6	778	11.5
Haakon	4	38	0.5	39	68	649	0.5	661	17.0
Hamlin	12	114	1.5	117	212	2,025	1.5	2,061	17.7
Hand	4	38	0.5	39	52	497	0.4	505	13.0
Hanson	7	67	0.9	68	120	1,146	0.9	1,166	17.2
Harding	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Hughes	49	467	6.3	479	1,597	15,254	11.5	15,524	32.7
Hutchinson	11	105	1.4	108	107	1,022	0.8	1,040	9.8
Hyde	2	19	0.3	20	5	48	0.0	49	2.5
Jackson	4	38	0.5	39	74	707	0.5	719	18.5
Jerauld	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Jones	6	57	0.8	59	185	1,767	1.3	1,798	30.9
Kingsbury	9	86	1.2	88	161	1,538	1.2	1,565	17.9
Lake	20	191	2.6	196	444	4,241	3.2	4,316	22.3
Lincoln	32	305	4.1	313	350	3,343	2.5	3,402	11.0
Lyman	13	124	1.7	127	162	1,547	1.2	1,575	12.5
McCook	17	162	2.2	166	254	2,426	1.8	2,469	15.0
McPherson	4	38	0.5	39	15	143	0.1	146	3.8
Marshall	3	29	0.4	29	24	229	0.2	233	8.0
Meade	16	152	2.0	157	338	3,228	2.4	3,286	21.2
Mellette	2	19	0.3	20	25	239	0.2	243	12.5
Miner	9	86	1.2	88	189	1,805	1.4	1,837	21.1
Moody	10	95	1.3	98	107	1,022	0.8	1,040	10.7
Perkins	6	57	0.8	59	74	707	0.5	719	12.4
Potter	4	38	0.5	39	105	1,003	0.8	1,021	26.3
Roberts	8	76	1.0	78	42	401	0.3	408	5.3
Sanborn	6	57	0.8	59	62	592	0.4	603	10.4
Spink	12	114	1.5	117	233	2,225	1.7	2,265	19.5
Stanley	12	114	1.5	117	274	2,617	2.0	2,663	22.9
Sully	10	95	1.3	98	304	2,904	2.2	2,955	30.5
Tripp	15	143	1.9	147	350	3,343	2.5	3,402	23.4
Turner	18	172	2.3	176	218	2,082	1.6	2,119	12.1
Union	10	95	1.3	98	161	1,538	1.2	1,565	16.1
Walworth	6	57	0.8	59	18	172	0.1	175	3.0
Ziebach	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Shannon	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Todd	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Unk/Unreported	21	200	-	-	246	2,350	-	-	11.7
TOTALS:	803	7,651	100%	7,651	14,126	134,922	100%	134,922	17.63
Last Revised: 15 June 2016									
* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.									
** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.									

WATERFOWL

In 2015, there were an estimated 17,231 active resident migratory bird hunters in South Dakota, of which 14,579 were active waterfowl hunters. There were also an estimated 4,195 nonresidents that participated in waterfowl hunting. A random sample of approximately 17% of the resident migratory bird certificate holders and 53% of the nonresident waterfowl license holders were surveyed. Nonresident youth license holders were not surveyed. The survey response rates were 64% for residents and 78% for nonresidents.

Approximately 2.4% of responding resident license holders stated that they participated in the mentored hunting program, which projects to approximately 708 hunters.

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), waterfowl hunters reported an overall average rating of 4.84 for residents, and 4.91 for nonresidents.

Summary comparison of the 2006 - 2015 waterfowl seasons

Year	Resident Hunters				Nonresident Hunters			
	# Active Mig Bird Hunters	# Waterfowl Hunters	Survey Resp. Rate	Satisfaction	# Active Mig Bird Hunters	# Waterfowl Hunters	Survey Resp. Rate	Satisfaction
2006	23,585	20,684	76%	4.91	n/a	4,374	83%	5.20
2007	21,101	18,758	73%	4.83	n/a	4,338	82%	5.05
2008	19,894	17,751	69%	4.97	n/a	4,488	79%	5.17
2009	19,752	17,558	75%	4.87	n/a	4,300	83%	5.38
2010	19,436	17,652	69%	5.14	n/a	4,420	74%	5.50
2011	18,836	17,085	52%	5.27	n/a	4,326	80%	5.50
2012	18,553	16,725	56%	5.16	n/a	4,287	74%	5.30
2013	18,751	16,698	66%	5.04	n/a	4,142	80%	5.31
2014	19,643	16,921	68%	4.92	n/a	3,798	80%	5.17
2015	17,231	14,579	64%	4.84	n/a	4,195	78%	4.91

<u>WATERFOWL HUNTING SUMMARY FOR 2015</u>								
Revised: 1 June 2016								
	NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT						Sum	Resident
	00A	00B	11A	00X	00Y	YW1	Estimates	Total
Licenses Sold	251	3,714	22	401	499	20	4,907	29,115
Projected ACTIVE MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTERS	198	3,218	15	317	428	20	4,195	17,231
Unique Licenseholders	251	3,714	22	374	499	20	4,880	29,065
Number Sampled by Survey	248	1,983	22	315	490	0	2,568	4,861
Number Responded to Survey	203	1,571	16	224	378	0	2,014	3,126
% Responded and Participated in Season	79%	87%	69%	85%	86%		86%	59%
Responded and Participated in Season	160	1,361	11	190	324		1,722	1,850
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	43	210	5	34	54		292	1,276
Survey Response Rate	81.9%	79.2%	72.7%	71.1%	77.1%		78.4%	64.3%
<u>MENTORED YOUTH PARTICIPATION:</u>								
No. Hunters Reporting Participation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	76
Projected No. Hunters Participating								708
Percent Hunters Participating								2.4%
No. Hunters Reporting Goose or Duck Days	160	1361	11	190	324		2,046	1,568
Projected Waterfowl Hunters - Ducks and Geese	198	3,218	15	317	428	20	4,195	14,579
TOTAL WATERFOWL HUNTERS =								18,774
All Waterfowl Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*	4.54	4.85	4.18	5.12	5.25		4.91	4.84
1 Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied								

1 Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied

TUNDRA SWAN

The 2015 tundra swan season was open from October 3 - December 20 in the following counties: Campbell, Walworth, Potter, Sully, Hughes, Hyde, Hand, Faulk, Spink, McPherson, Edmunds, Brown, Marshall, Roberts, Day, Grant, Codington, Clark, Hamlin, Deuel, Beadle, Kingsbury, Brookings, Buffalo, Jerauld, Brule, Aurora, Sanborn, Miner, Lake, Moody, Davison, Hanson, McCook, and Minnehaha. Residents and nonresidents could purchase up to two licenses. To hunt swans, residents were required to hold a small game, 1-day small game, senior, adult or junior combination, or youth small game license plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident waterfowl license. All hunters age 16 and over were also required to obtain a federal waterfowl stamp. In addition, all hunters needed to apply for and receive a lottery-issued tundra swan license.

In 2015, there were 1,300 licenses available for the tundra swan season (1,100 residents, 200 nonresidents). A total of 1,299 licenses were sold (1,088 residents, 211 nonresidents) and 170 hunters purchased two licenses each. A random sample of 499 swan hunters was surveyed and the response rate was 79%. Approximately 77% of hunters that responded did so over the Internet.

From the survey responses, there were a projected 229 swans harvested (not including cripples) during the 2015 season. An estimated 10 swans were crippled and not recovered. When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), swan hunters reported an average rating of 5.09. From those who responded, 29% indicated they did not hunt for swans (some hunters indicated they just purchased the license in case they happened to see a swan while hunting other waterfowl). The average days hunted by all license holders (3.07 days) projected to a total of 3,466 recreation days for the season.

The 5 counties with the highest reported swan harvest were Brown, McPherson, Marshall, Clark, and Day.

Comparison of the 2006 – 2015 Tundra Swan seasons

Year	Licenses Sold			Harvest (w/o cripples)	Avg Days Hunted	Percent Success	Average Satisfaction
	Resident	Nonres	Total				
2006	635	166	801	163	3.70	20%	4.94
2007	783	281	1,064	144	3.67	14%	4.66
2008	758	200	958	220	3.68	23%	5.12
2009	1,034	208	1,242	297	3.72	24%	5.02
2010	991	243	1,234	191	2.77	15%	4.79
2011	978	178	1,156	261	2.94	23%	5.05
2012	1,064	202	1,266	157	2.85	12%	4.97
2013	1,081	178	1,259	306	3.01	24%	5.31
2014	1,018	198	1,216	280	3.27	23%	5.11
2015	1,088	211	1,299	229	3.07	18%	5.09

2015 Tundra Swan Harvest Projections

Last Revised:		Licenses															
1-Apr-2016		Resident				Nonresident			Response Rate	Unit Success	Harvest Projections					Ave. Days Hunted	Ave. Satis- faction
Unit/Type	App. 1st Choice *	Available	Sold	App. 1st Choice *	Available	Sold	Hunters	Cripples **			Adults	Juvnles	Unk.	Total Harvest			
00A-81	486	1,100	1,088	143	200	211	1,129	79.2%	18%	10	223	0	6	229	3.07	5.09	

* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that season as 1st choice.

** Cripple estimate not included in Total Harvest Estimate.

Satisfaction is based on scale with 1=very dissatisfied and 7=very satisfied.

* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that season as 1st choice.

** Cripple estimate not included in Total Harvest Estimate.

Satisfaction is based on scale with 1=very dissatisfied and 7=very satisfied.

Tundra Swan Harvest Distribution by County 2015

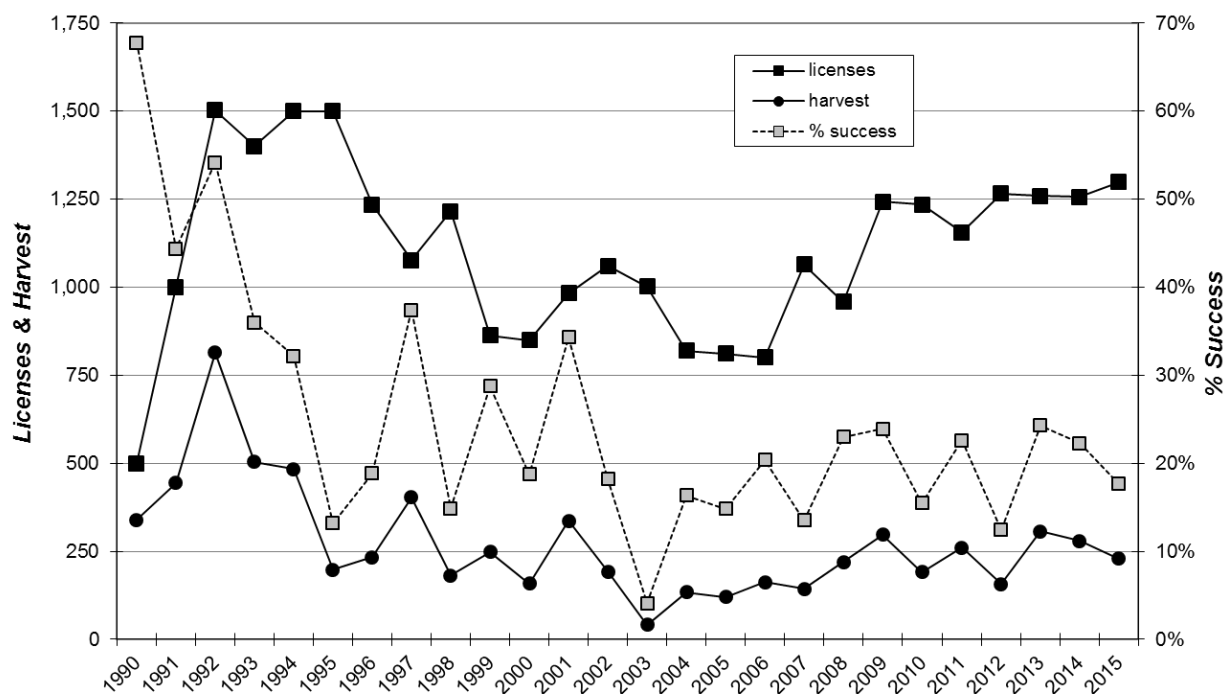
HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				
COUNTY	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *
Brown	15	43	19.0	43
Beadle	0	0	0.0	0
Codington	4	11	5.1	12
Brookings	0	0	0.0	0
Campbell	3	9	3.8	9
Clark	5	14	6.3	14
Day	5	14	6.3	14
Deuel	0	0	0.0	0
Edmunds	4	11	5.1	12
Faulk	0	0	0.0	0
Grant	0	0	0.0	0
Hamlin	0	0	0.0	0
Hyde	0	0	0.0	0
Kingsbury	1	3	1.3	3
Lake	0	0	0.0	0
McPherson	30	86	38.0	87
Marshall	7	20	8.9	20
Potter	0	0	0.0	0
Roberts	2	6	2.5	6
Spink	2	6	2.5	6
Walworth	1	3	1.3	3
Unk/Unreported	1	3	-	
TOTALS:	80	229	100%	229

Last Revised: 1 April 2016

* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.

** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.

TUNDRA SWAN HARVEST, 1990-2015



DUCKS (all species)

The 2015 duck season was open 26 September 2015 - 14 January 2016 statewide, although some units/zones may have opened later and/or closed sooner. A special Youth Waterfowl season was open 19-20 September for youth that had not reached age 16 by the first day of the season. The daily bag was 6 ducks, which could include no more than 5 mallards (up to 2 hens), 3 scaup, 2 redheads, 3 wood ducks, 2 canvasbacks, or 2 pintails. Hunters could also harvest 2 bonus blue-winged teal daily during the first 16 days of the season. The daily limit on mergansers was 5, which could include no more than 2 hooded mergansers, and the daily limit on coots was 15. The possession limit was three times the daily bag for each species. To hunt ducks, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game licenses plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident waterfowl license. All hunters age 16 and over were also required to obtain a federal waterfowl stamp.

In 2015, there were an estimated 15,931 hunters who hunted at least one day for ducks (11,994 residents, 3,937 nonresidents). From the survey responses, there were a projected total of 213,745 ducks harvested (169,183 by residents, 44,562 by nonresidents). Nonresidents reported harvesting 9% of their ducks within 20 miles of the Missouri River. Average bag for residents was 14.11, and for nonresidents ranged from 4.5 in unit 11A to 13.18 in unit 00A.

The five counties with the highest reported resident hunter numbers were Brown, Kingsbury, Day, Lake, and Brookings. The five counties with the highest reported unit 00B nonresident hunter numbers were Roberts, Brown, Day, Marshall, and Clark.

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being most dissatisfied, 7 being most satisfied), duck hunters reported an average satisfaction rating of 4.87 for residents and 4.90 for nonresidents.

The average days hunted by all hunters (7.22 residents, 4.54 nonresidents) projected to a total of 104,419 recreation days for the season.

Comparison of the 2010 - 2015 duck season statistics

Year	Resident Hunters					Nonresident Hunters				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2010	14,038	209,868	7.63	14.95	5.19	4,123	52,434	4.74	12.72	5.52
2011	13,394	213,642	7.34	15.95	5.34	4,132	51,098	4.58	12.37	5.51
2012	12,797	186,398	7.46	14.57	5.19	3,961	47,210	4.75	11.92	5.27
2013	13,456	195,935	7.41	14.56	5.09	3,842	47,873	4.53	12.46	5.31
2014	13,471	179,674	7.12	13.34	4.95	3,565	42,307	4.44	11.87	5.16
2015	11,994	169,183	7.22	14.11	4.87	3,937	44,562	4.54	11.32	4.90

DUCK HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2015

Revised: 1 June 2016

	NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT						Sum Estimates	Resident Total
	00A	00B	11A	00X	00Y	YW1		
No. Hunters Reporting Duck Days	154	1,342	4	85	323		1,908	1,290
Total Reported Duck Hunted Days	1,058	6,332	15	210	929		8,544	9,308
Average Days Hunted Ducks	6.87	4.72	3.75	2.47	2.88		4.54	7.22
Total Reported Ducks Bagged	2,030	15,798	18	422	3,011		21,279	18,196
Average Duck Bag for Season	13.18	11.77	4.50	4.96	9.32		11.32	14.11
Projected Days Duck Hunting	1,308	14,969	21	351	1,226		17,875	86,544
Projected No. Duck Hunters	190	3,173	6	142	426		3,937	11,994
Projected Duck Bag	2,510	37,348	25	705	3,975		44,562	169,183
Duck Harvest Reported Within 20 Miles of Missouri River	1,902	617	0	191	37		2,747	
Projected Ducks Bagged w/in 20 miles of Missouri River	2,352	1,459	0	319	49		4,178	N/A
TOTAL DUCK HARVEST = 213,745								
Duck Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*	4.58	4.86	5.00	4.80	5.26		4.90	4.87

1 Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied

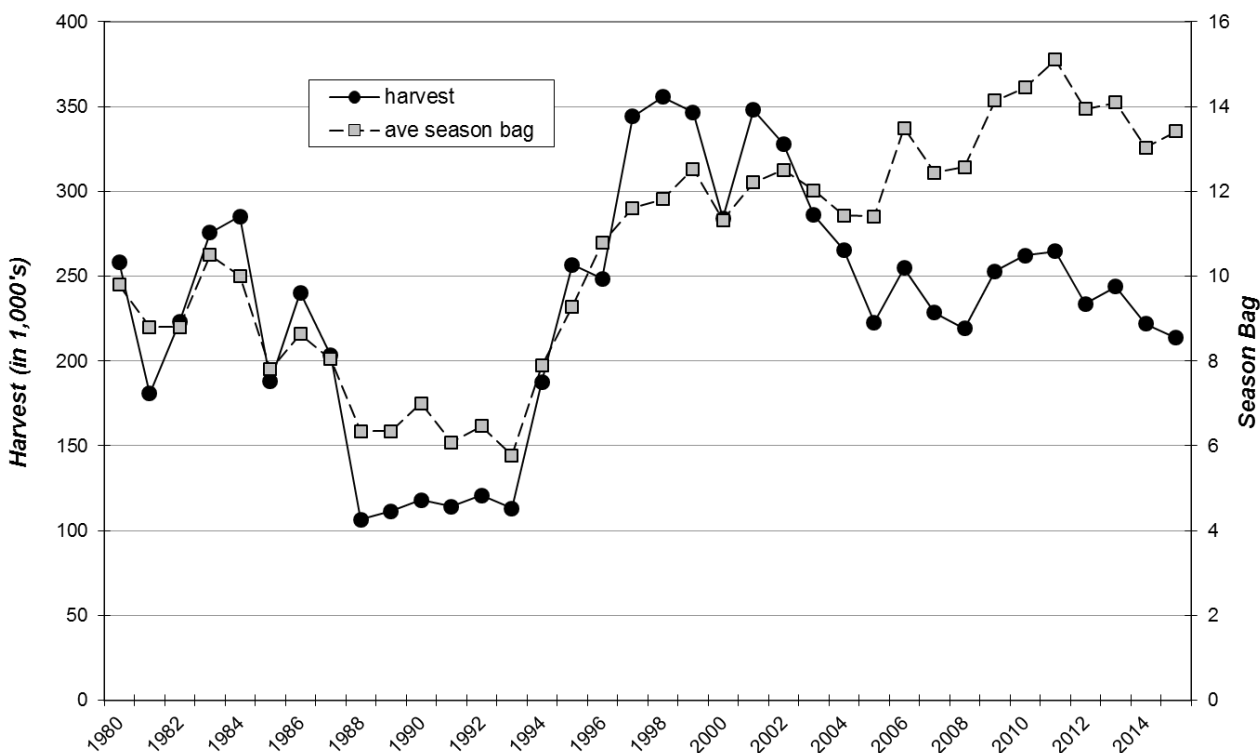
South Dakota Game Report No 2016-01 - 2015 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections
Corey Huxoll

Resident Duck Harvest Distribution by County 2015									
COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION				HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Birds/Hunter **
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	
Minnehaha	40	372	3.3	396	545	5,067	3.2	5,335	13.6
Pennington	21	195	1.7	208	157	1,460	0.9	1,537	7.5
Brown	71	660	5.9	703	909	8,452	5.3	8,899	12.8
Beadle	25	232	2.1	248	194	1,804	1.1	1,899	7.8
Codington	32	298	2.6	317	794	7,382	4.6	7,773	24.8
Brookings	61	567	5.0	604	675	6,276	3.9	6,608	11.1
Yankton	19	177	1.6	188	285	2,650	1.6	2,790	15.0
Davison	31	288	2.6	307	433	4,026	2.5	4,239	14.0
Lawrence	8	74	0.7	79	90	837	0.5	881	11.3
Aurora	10	93	0.8	99	36	335	0.2	352	3.6
Bennett	2	19	0.2	20	9	84	0.1	88	4.5
Bon Homme	18	167	1.5	178	225	2,092	1.3	2,203	12.5
Brule	8	74	0.7	79	106	986	0.6	1,038	13.3
Buffalo	1	9	0.1	10	25	232	0.1	245	25.0
Butte	12	112	1.0	119	100	930	0.6	979	8.3
Campbell	10	93	0.8	99	128	1,190	0.7	1,253	12.8
Charles Mix	15	139	1.2	149	221	2,055	1.3	2,163	14.7
Clark	51	474	4.2	505	977	9,084	5.7	9,564	19.2
Clay	3	28	0.2	30	132	1,227	0.8	1,292	44.0
Corson	2	19	0.2	20	3	28	0.0	29	1.5
Custer	2	19	0.2	20	5	46	0.0	49	2.5
Day	99	920	8.2	981	1,498	13,928	8.7	14,665	15.1
Deuel	25	232	2.1	248	271	2,520	1.6	2,653	10.8
Dewey	2	19	0.2	20	7	65	0.0	69	3.5
Douglas	7	65	0.6	69	67	623	0.4	656	9.6
Edmunds	27	251	2.2	267	378	3,515	2.2	3,700	14.0
Fall River	21	195	1.7	208	242	2,250	1.4	2,369	11.5
Faulk	6	56	0.5	59	71	660	0.4	695	11.8
Grant	12	112	1.0	119	80	744	0.5	783	6.7
Gregory	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Haakon	1	9	0.1	10	3	28	0.0	29	3.0
Hamlin	39	363	3.2	386	982	9,130	5.7	9,613	25.2
Hand	11	102	0.9	109	163	1,516	0.9	1,596	14.8
Hanson	16	149	1.3	158	123	1,144	0.7	1,204	7.7
Harding	3	28	0.2	30	55	511	0.3	538	18.3
Hughes	26	242	2.1	258	274	2,548	1.6	2,682	10.5
Hutchinson	7	65	0.6	69	133	1,237	0.8	1,302	19.0
Hyde	3	28	0.2	30	61	567	0.4	597	20.3
Jackson	2	19	0.2	20	5	46	0.0	49	2.5
Jerauld	7	65	0.6	69	44	409	0.3	431	6.3
Jones	3	28	0.2	30	35	325	0.2	343	11.7
Kingsbury	70	651	5.8	693	1,589	14,774	9.2	15,556	22.7
Lake	87	809	7.2	862	1,418	13,184	8.2	13,882	16.3
Lincoln	8	74	0.7	79	88	818	0.5	861	11.0
Lyman	5	46	0.4	50	37	344	0.2	362	7.4
McCook	50	465	4.1	495	772	7,178	4.5	7,558	15.4
McPherson	20	186	1.7	198	279	2,594	1.6	2,731	14.0
Marshall	37	344	3.1	366	540	5,021	3.1	5,286	14.6
Meade	4	37	0.3	40	9	84	0.1	88	2.3
Mellette	3	28	0.2	30	2	19	0.0	20	0.7
Miner	21	195	1.7	208	355	3,301	2.1	3,475	16.9
Moody	16	149	1.3	158	185	1,720	1.1	1,811	11.6
Perkins	7	65	0.6	69	22	205	0.1	215	3.1
Potter	9	84	0.7	89	184	1,711	1.1	1,801	20.4
Roberts	34	316	2.8	337	311	2,892	1.8	3,045	9.1
Sanborn	11	102	0.9	109	167	1,553	1.0	1,635	15.2
Spink	12	112	1.0	119	267	2,483	1.5	2,614	22.3
Stanley	9	84	0.7	89	64	595	0.4	627	7.1
Sully	15	139	1.2	149	161	1,497	0.9	1,576	10.7
Tripp	1	9	0.1	10	4	37	0.0	39	4.0
Turner	15	139	1.2	149	141	1,311	0.8	1,380	9.4
Union	10	93	0.8	99	105	976	0.6	1,028	10.5
Walworth	5	46	0.4	50	37	344	0.2	362	7.4
Ziebach	2	19	0.2	20	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Shannon	1	9	0.1	10	4	37	0.0	39	4.0
Todd	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Unk/Unreported	79	735	-	-	914	8,498	-	-	11.6
TOTALS:	1,290	11,994	100%	11,994	18,196	169,183	100%	169,183	14.11
<i>Last Revised: 2 June 2016</i>									
<i>* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.</i>									
<i>** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.</i>									

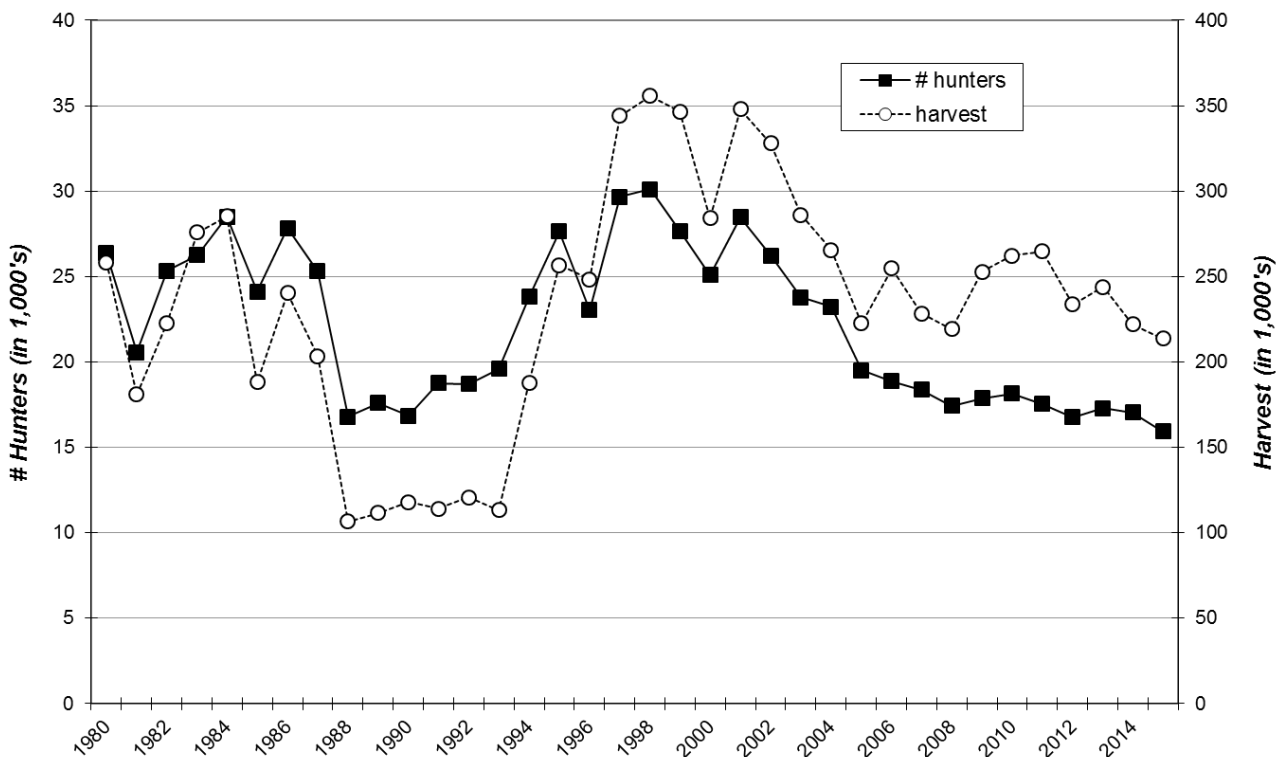
South Dakota Game Report No 2016-01 - 2015 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections
Corey Huxoll

2015 Reported Nonresident Duck Hunting Distribution by County						
COUNTY	00A	00B	00X	00Y	11A	00B PERCENT
Minnehaha	1	2	0	0	0	0.1%
Pennington	0	2	0	0	0	0.1%
Brown	1	132	0	28	0	9.8%
Beadle	0	16	0	1	0	1.2%
Codington	0	32	0	33	0	2.4%
Brookings	0	21	1	0	0	1.6%
Yankton	30	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Davison	0	8	0	0	0	0.6%
Lawrence	0	2	0	0	0	0.1%
Aurora	0	15	0	0	0	1.1%
Bennett	0	0	0	1	4	0.0%
Bon Homme	69	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Brule	0	33	1	0	0	2.5%
Buffalo	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Butte	0	4	0	0	0	0.3%
Campbell	0	7	0	0	0	0.5%
Charles Mix	23	2	0	0	0	0.1%
Clark	0	99	0	49	0	7.4%
Clay	11	2	0	0	0	0.1%
Corson	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Custer	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Day	0	303	3	113	0	22.6%
Deuel	0	10	0	1	0	0.7%
Dewey	0	3	0	0	0	0.2%
Douglas	0	3	0	0	0	0.2%
Edmunds	0	60	0	0	0	4.5%
Fall River	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Faulk	0	15	0	0	0	1.1%
Grant	0	5	0	2	0	0.4%
Gregory	0	2	0	0	0	0.1%
Haakon	0	2	0	0	0	0.1%
Hamlin	0	18	0	11	0	1.3%
Hand	0	9	0	0	0	0.7%
Hanson	0	4	0	0	0	0.3%
Harding	0	1	0	0	0	0.1%
Hughes	0	17	18	0	0	1.3%
Hutchinson	0	6	0	0	0	0.4%
Hyde	0	1	0	0	0	0.1%
Jackson	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Jerauld	0	9	0	0	0	0.7%
Jones	0	1	0	0	0	0.1%
Kingsbury	0	59	0	0	0	4.4%
Lake	0	11	0	0	0	0.8%
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Lyman	0	4	7	0	0	0.3%
McCook	0	9	0	1	0	0.7%
McPherson	4	74	0	0	0	5.5%
Marshall	0	94	0	33	0	7.0%
Meade	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Mellette	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Miner	0	15	1	0	0	1.1%
Moody	0	2	0	0	0	0.1%
Perkins	0	3	0	0	0	0.2%
Potter	0	5	14	0	0	0.4%
Roberts	1	112	1	35	0	8.3%
Sanborn	0	5	0	0	0	0.4%
Spink	0	40	0	1	0	3.0%
Stanley	0	3	7	0	0	0.2%
Sully	0	4	24	0	0	0.3%
Tripp	1	3	0	0	0	0.2%
Turner	0	2	0	0	0	0.1%
Union	9	1	0	0	0	0.1%
Walworth	0	18	0	0	0	1.3%
Ziebach	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Oglala Lakota	0	1	0	0	0	0.1%
Todd	0	0	0	1	0	0.0%
Unk/Unreported	4	31	8	13	0	2.3%
TOTALS:	154	1,342	85	323	1,904	100.0%
<i>Last updated: 2 June 2016</i>						

STATEWIDE DUCK (all species) HARVEST, 1980-2015



STATEWIDE DUCK SEASON PARTICIPATION, 1980-2015



CANADA GEESE (all seasons)

Information provided in this section pertains to the entire Canada goose harvest in South Dakota and combines information from all seasons. The next three sections report specifically on the August Management Take, Early Fall (September) and Special Bennett County seasons.

The 2015 Canada goose season was open from 1 September 2015 - 14 February 2016 statewide, although some units may have opened later and/or closed sooner. A special August Management Take was also open from 15 -31 August. The daily bag was 15 geese prior to 1 October; and after that it was 8 geese. Possession was three times the daily bag except during the August Take when there was no limit. Resident hunters were separately licensed for one Special Canada goose unit in Bennett County. To hunt geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game licenses plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident waterfowl license. All hunters age 16 and over were also required to obtain a federal waterfowl stamp. Special Canada goose season hunters were required to apply for and receive Special Canada goose season licenses.

In 2015, there were a projected 12,332 hunters who hunted at least one day for Canada geese (10,228 residents, 2,104 nonresidents). From the survey responses, there were a projected total of 78,954 Canada geese harvested (73,471 by residents, 5,482 by nonresidents). Average Canada goose bag for residents was 7.18, for nonresidents 2.70. An estimated 17,731 Canada geese were harvested within 20 miles of the Missouri River.

The five counties with the highest reported harvest by residents were Hughes, Day, Codington, Clark, and Minnehaha, and by nonresidents in unit 00B were Day, Brown, Roberts, Edmunds, and Clark.

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), Canada goose hunters reported an average rating of 4.78 for residents and 4.98 for nonresidents. The average days hunted by all hunters (7.00 residents, 4.30 nonresidents) projected to a total of 80,833 recreation days for the season.

Comparison of the 2006 - 2015 Canada goose harvests

Year	Resident Hunters					Nonresident Hunters				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2006	16,103	118,357	7.53	7.35	4.95	2,789	7,419	4.03	2.66	5.21
2007	14,026	94,535	7.24	6.74	4.81	2,349	6,248	3.82	2.66	5.21
2008	13,463	97,068	7.21	7.21	5.03	2,483	6,381	3.89	2.57	5.24
2009	12,927	98,892	7.25	7.65	4.92	1,986	5,561	4.14	2.80	5.27
2010	13,552	123,188	7.53	9.09	5.19	2,198	6,440	4.45	2.93	5.50
2011	13,376	131,505	7.28	9.83	5.31	2,167	6,332	4.25	2.92	5.63
2012	13,725	157,363	7.61	11.47	5.19	2,277	7,054	4.37	3.10	5.44
2013	12,004	117,846	7.54	9.82	5.06	2,160	6,310	4.24	2.92	5.37
2014	12,130	97,956	6.92	8.08	4.96	1,969	5,193	4.31	2.76	5.22
2015	10,228	73,471	7.00	7.18	4.78	2,104	5,482	4.30	2.70	4.98

South Dakota Game Report No 2016-01 - 2015 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections
Corey Huxoll

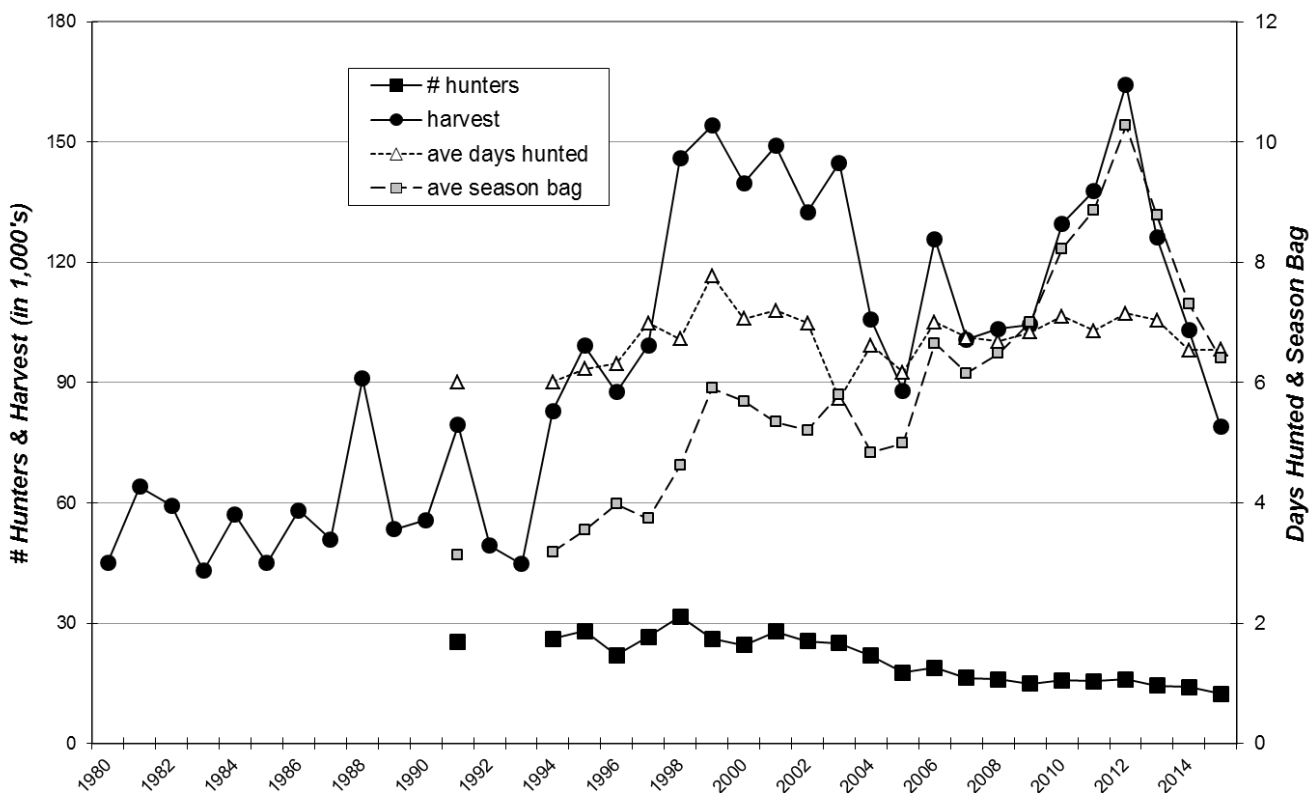
CANADA GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2015

Revised: 1 June 2016

	NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT						Sum Estimates	Resident Total
	00A	00B	11A	00X	00Y	YW1		
No. Hunters Reporting Canada Goose Days	91	651	9	149	145		1,045	1,100
Total Reported Canada Goose Hunted Days	655	3,047	16	374	404		4,496	7,705
Average Days Hunted Canada Geese	7.20	4.68	1.78	2.51	2.79		4.30	7.00
Total Reported Canada Geese Bagged	341	1,507	20	623	326		2,817	7,902
Average Canada Goose Bag for Season	3.75	2.31	2.22	4.18	2.25		2.70	7.18
Projected Days Canada Goose Hunting	810	7,203	22	624	533		9,193	71,640
Projected No. Canada Goose Hunters	113	1,539	12	249	191		2,104	10,228
Projected Canada Goose Bag	422	3,563	28	1,040	430		5,482	73,471
Canada Geese Reported w/in 20 miles of Missouri River	299	175	0	502	0		976	1,907
Projected Canada Geese Bagged w/in 20 miles of Missouri	370	414	0	838	0		1,622	17,731
TOTAL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST ALL SEASONS = 78,954								
Canada Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*	4.53	4.92	3.89	5.25	5.33		4.98	4.78

1 Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied

STATEWIDE CANADA GOOSE (all seasons) HARVEST, 1980-2015



South Dakota Game Report No 2016-01 - 2015 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections
Corey Huxoll

Resident Canada Goose Harvest Distribution by County 2015										
COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION					HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Birds/Hunter **
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *		# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	
Minnehaha	36	335	3.6	364		337	3,133	4.7	3,442	9.4
Pennington	11	102	1.1	111		86	800	1.2	878	7.8
Brown	53	493	5.2	536		272	2,529	3.8	2,778	5.1
Beadle	20	186	2.0	202		69	642	1.0	705	3.5
Codington	17	158	1.7	172		409	3,803	5.7	4,178	24.1
Brookings	34	316	3.4	344		114	1,060	1.6	1,164	3.4
Yankton	14	130	1.4	142		84	781	1.2	858	6.0
Davison	27	251	2.7	273		210	1,953	2.9	2,145	7.8
Lawrence	3	28	0.3	30		33	307	0.5	337	11.0
Aurora	1	9	0.1	10		0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Bennett	20	186	2.0	202		100	930	1.4	1,021	5.0
Bon Homme	17	158	1.7	172		73	679	1.0	746	4.3
Brule	10	93	1.0	101		112	1,041	1.6	1,144	11.2
Buffalo	2	19	0.2	20		26	242	0.4	266	13.0
Butte	8	74	0.8	81		30	279	0.4	306	3.8
Campbell	8	74	0.8	81		15	139	0.2	153	1.9
Charles Mix	16	149	1.6	162		120	1,116	1.7	1,226	7.5
Clark	56	521	5.5	567		362	3,366	5.0	3,698	6.5
Clay	6	56	0.6	61		11	102	0.2	112	1.8
Corson	2	19	0.2	20		17	158	0.2	174	8.5
Custer	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Day	80	744	7.9	809		568	5,281	7.9	5,802	7.1
Deuel	23	214	2.3	233		197	1,832	2.7	2,012	8.6
Dewey	3	28	0.3	30		27	251	0.4	276	9.0
Douglas	5	46	0.5	51		5	46	0.1	51	1.0
Edmunds	16	149	1.6	162		111	1,032	1.5	1,134	6.9
Fall River	18	167	1.8	182		131	1,218	1.8	1,338	7.3
Faulk	6	56	0.6	61		97	902	1.3	991	16.2
Grant	20	186	2.0	202		105	976	1.5	1,073	5.3
Gregory	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Haakon	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Hamlin	26	242	2.6	263		193	1,794	2.7	1,971	7.4
Hand	5	46	0.5	51		13	121	0.2	133	2.6
Hanson	8	74	0.8	81		17	158	0.2	174	2.1
Harding	2	19	0.2	20		9	84	0.1	92	4.5
Hughes	89	828	8.8	900		877	8,154	12.2	8,958	9.9
Hutchinson	5	46	0.5	51		31	288	0.4	317	6.2
Hyde	1	9	0.1	10		2	19	0.0	20	2.0
Jackson	2	19	0.2	20		11	102	0.2	112	5.5
Jerauld	3	28	0.3	30		5	46	0.1	51	1.7
Jones	2	19	0.2	20		51	474	0.7	521	25.5
Kingsbury	36	335	3.6	364		300	2,789	4.2	3,064	8.3
Lake	50	465	4.9	506		190	1,767	2.6	1,941	3.8
Lincoln	10	93	1.0	101		30	279	0.4	306	3.0
Lyman	11	102	1.1	111		38	353	0.5	388	3.5
McCook	22	205	2.2	223		96	893	1.3	981	4.4
McPherson	19	177	1.9	192		232	2,157	3.2	2,370	12.2
Marshall	31	288	3.1	314		192	1,785	2.7	1,961	6.2
Meade	3	28	0.3	30		1	9	0.0	10	0.3
Mellette	1	9	0.1	10		0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Miner	11	102	1.1	111		34	316	0.5	347	3.1
Moody	11	102	1.1	111		86	800	1.2	878	7.8
Perkins	9	84	0.9	91		60	558	0.8	613	6.7
Potter	10	93	1.0	101		47	437	0.7	480	4.7
Roberts	36	335	3.6	364		213	1,980	3.0	2,176	5.9
Sanborn	6	56	0.6	61		25	232	0.3	255	4.2
Spink	15	139	1.5	152		233	2,166	3.2	2,380	15.5
Stanley	15	139	1.5	152		128	1,190	1.8	1,307	8.5
Sully	16	149	1.6	162		171	1,590	2.4	1,747	10.7
Tripp	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0
Turner	7	65	0.7	71		45	418	0.6	460	6.4
Union	7	65	0.7	71		76	707	1.1	776	10.9
Walworth	5	46	0.5	51		46	428	0.6	470	9.2
Ziebach	2	19	0.2	20		0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Shannon	2	19	0.2	20		19	177	0.3	194	9.5
Todd	1	9	0.1	10		1	9	0.0	10	1.0
Unk/Unreported	89	828	-	-		709	6,592	-		8.0
TOTALS:	1,100	10,228	100%	10,228		7,902	73,471	100%	73,471	7.18
Last Revised: 2 June 2016										
* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.										
** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.										

AUGUST MANAGEMENT TAKE **CANADA GOOSE**

The 2015 Canada goose August Management Take was open for residents only from 15-31 August in Brookings, Brown, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Hamlin, Hanson, Hutchinson, Grant, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Marshall, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Spink, Turner, and Union counties, and Pennington County west of the Cheyenne River. The daily bag limit was 15 and there was no possession limit. To hunt geese, residents were required to hold a small game, 1-day small game, adult or junior combination, or a youth small game license plus a migratory bird certification.

In 2015, there were 16,540 resident hunters licensed to hunt the Canada goose August Management Take. Approximately 12% (1,966) of the resident hunters were surveyed and 1,246 responded for a 63% rate.

There were a projected 1,686 license holders who hunted at least one day and harvested an estimated 10,221 Canada geese during the 2015 August Management Take.

The five counties with the highest reported harvest were Day, Codington, Clark, Marshall, and Roberts.

Summary comparison of the 2010-15 August Management Take Canada goose seasons

Year	Hunters	Harvest	Average Days Hunted	Average Season Bag
2010	3,538	29,047	2.99	8.21
2011	3,211	30,300	2.74	9.44
2012	3,581	36,757	3.08	10.26
2013	2,345	18,592	3.42	7.93
2014	2,302	20,671	3.24	8.98
2015	1,686	10,221	3.03	6.06

AUGUST TAKE CANADA GOOSE HARVEST FOR 2015

Last Revised: 12 Nov 2015

	Resident
AUGUST CANADA GOOSE MGT TAKE Licenses Sold *4*	16,540
Projected No. August Mgt Take Hunters	1,686
Number Sampled by Survey	1,966
Number Responded to Survey	1,246
Responded and Participated in Season	127
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	1,131
Survey Response Rate	63.4%
No. Hunters Reporting August Canada Goose Days	127
Total Reported August Canada Goose Hunted Days	385
Average Days Hunted Canada Geese	3.03
Total Reported Canada Geese Bagged	770
Total Reported Canada Geese Shot but not Retrieved	49
Projected Canada Geese Shot but not Retrieved	650
Average Canada Goose Bag for August Take	6.06
Projected Days Canada Goose Hunting August Take	5,111
Projected No. August Take Canada Goose Hunters	1,686
Projected Canada Goose Bag	10,221
TOTAL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST AUGUST TAKE = 10,221	
95% CI: +/- 2,486	
4 Numbers of resident licenses sold are based on the number of migratory bird certificates in the 2015 database purchased prior to August 26	

August Management Take Canada Goose Harvest Distribution 2015

Region	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION				HARVEST DISTRIBUTION					
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk*	# Reported	# Projected	Birds/Hunter**	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk*	CI (95%)
Northeast	67	889	53.2	896	547	7,261	8.2	71.0	7,261	+/-2,079
East-Central	24	319	19.0	321	63	836	2.6	8.2	836	+/-420
Southeast	35	465	27.8	468	160	2,124	4.6	20.8	2,124	+/-1,168
Pennington	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	
Unk/Unreported	1	13	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	
TOTALS:	127	1,686	100%	1,686	770	10,221	6.06	100%	10,221	+/-2,486

Revised: 12 Nov 2015

* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.

** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.

Northeast region includes: Brown, Marshall, Roberts, Day, Spink, Clark, Codington and Grant counties; East-Central region includes: Hamlin, Deuel, Kingsbury, Brookings, Miner, Lake and Moody;

Southeast region includes: Hanson, McCook, Minnehaha, Hutchinson, Lincoln, Turner and Union.

EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE

The 2015 Early Fall Canada goose season was open from 1-30 September in the Unit 1 counties specified in the 2015 hunting guide, which included most of the state. However, nonresidents were prohibited from hunting in the counties of Beadle, Brookings, Hanson, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Sanborn, Turner and Union during these dates. The daily bag limit was 15 geese and possession was 45. To hunt geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game licenses plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident waterfowl license. All hunters age 16 and over were also required to obtain a federal waterfowl stamp.

Resident hunters were surveyed utilizing the Migratory Bird Harvest Survey that is used to assess all migratory bird harvest for the year. Hunters were asked to break down how many geese they harvested during the Early Fall season out of the total number they harvested for the year. Nonresident hunters were surveyed using a separate Early Fall Canada Goose season survey.

In 2015, there were 29,392 hunters licensed to hunt the Early Fall Canada goose season (29,065 residents, 327 nonresidents). Approximately 17% (4,861) of the resident hunters and 89% (292) of the nonresident hunters were surveyed. The survey response rates were 64% for residents and 52% for nonresidents.

In 2015, there were a projected 3,883 hunters who hunted at least one day in Unit 1 during the Early Fall season. There were a projected 20,735 geese harvested.

Comparison of the 2006 - 2015 Early Fall Canada goose harvests

Year	Number Hunters	Harvest	Average Season Bag
2006	6,095	25,755	4.23
2007	5,876	26,698	4.54
2008	5,275	27,924	5.29
2009	6,157	39,275	6.38
2010	5,767	44,183	7.66
2011	5,417	50,361	9.30
2012	3,636	28,788	7.92
2013	4,528	29,887	6.60
2014	5,106	28,814	5.64
2015	3,883	20,735	5.34

EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2015

Last Revised: 1 June 2016

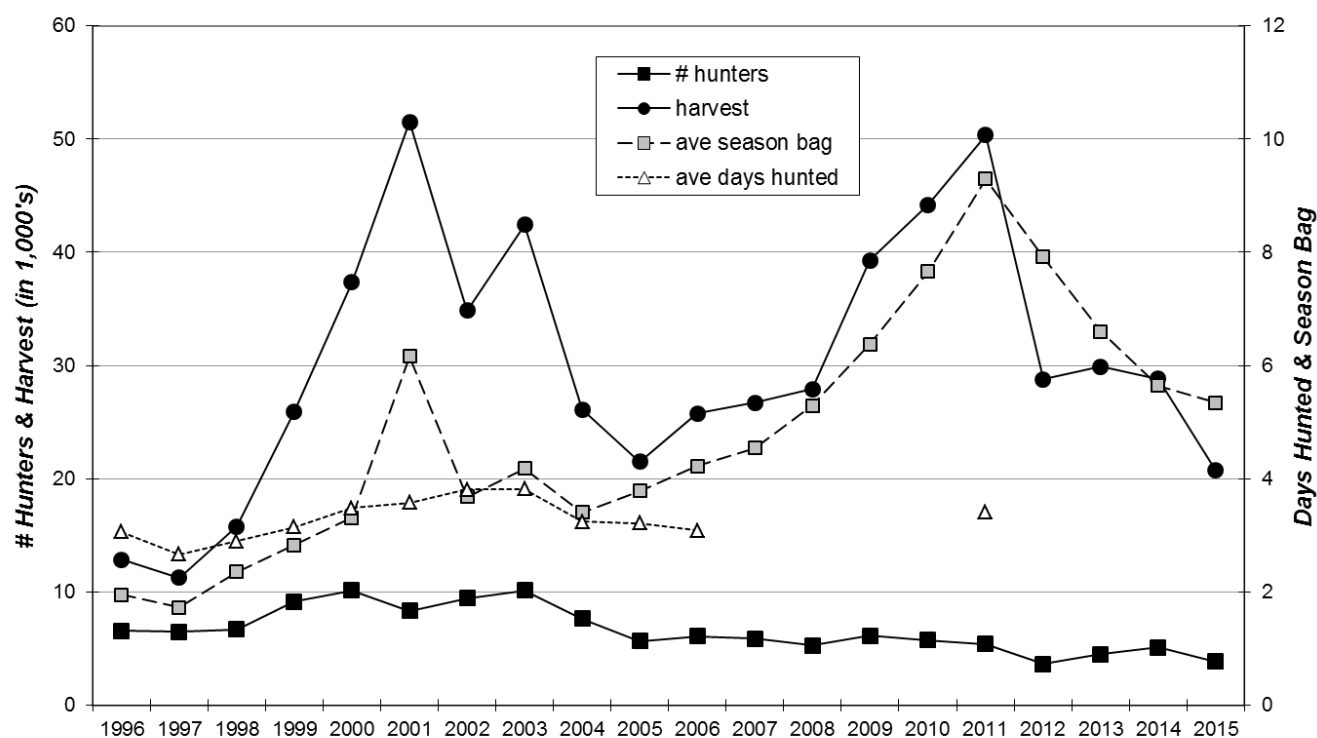
	Resident	Non Resident
EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE SEASON Licenses Sold *1*	29,115	327
Unique Licenseholders	29,065	327
Projected No. Early Fall Canada Goose Hunters	3,608	275
Number Sampled by Survey	4,861	292
Number Responded to Survey	3,126	151
Responded and Participated in Season	388	127
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	2,738	24
Survey Response Rate	64.3%	51.7%
No. Hunters Reporting Early Fall Canada Goose Days	388	127
Total Reported Early Fall Canada Goose Hunted Days	UNK	431
Average Days Hunted Canada Geese	UNK	3.39
Total Reported Canada Geese Bagged	1,939	1,250
Average Canada Goose Bag for Early Fall	5.00	9.84
Projected Days Canada Goose Hunting Early Fall	UNK	933
Projected No. Early Fall Canada Goose Hunters	3,608	275
Projected Canada Goose Bag	18,028	2,707
TOTAL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST EARLY FALL SEASON = 20,735		
Canada Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *2*	4.81	4.76

1 For residents: number of licenses based on # Migratory Bird Certificates in the 2015 GF82 database

For nonresidents: number of Nonresident Waterfowl licenses sold in GF79

2 Based on a scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied

EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST, 1996-2015



SPECIAL CANADA GOOSE

The 2015 Special Unit Canada goose season was open from October 17 to December 20 in Bennett County. To hunt this resident-only season, hunters were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, senior, adult or junior combination, or youth small game licenses plus a migratory bird certification, and for those hunters age 16 and over, a federal waterfowl stamp. Additionally, hunters must have applied for and received a Special Canada goose license for that specific unit. Each license allowed the hunter to harvest 3 geese and individuals could have had up to 5 licenses for the season, if licenses were left after the 2nd deadline drawing. A total of 134 hunters received multiple licenses for the 2015 season, including 22 hunters who received the maximum of 5 licenses each.

In 2015, there were 536 residents licensed to hunt the Special Canada goose season. All license holders who provided email addresses when applying for their license were surveyed and 318 responses were received for a response rate of 68%. All responding hunters used the Internet.

From the survey responses, there were an estimated 635 Canada geese harvested for an average bag of 1.19. Of the 318 hunters who responded to the survey, only 170 (53%) indicated that they actually hunted during this season. When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), hunters reported an average rating of 5.26.

SPECIAL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2015

Last Revised: 3 Feb 2016

	Resident
SPECIAL CANADA GOOSE SEASON Licenses Sold	801
Number Unique Licenseholders	536
Number Sampled by Survey	466
Number Responded to Survey	318
Responded and Participated in Season	170
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	148
Survey Response Rate	68.2%
Total Reported Canada Goose Hunted Days	376
Average Days Hunted Canada Geese	1.18
Total Reported Canada Geese Bagged	377
Average Canada Goose Bag for Season	1.19
Projected Days Canada Goose Hunting	634
Projected No. Canada Goose Hunters	287
Projected Canada Goose Bag	635
Reported Geese shot but not retrieved	23
Projected Geese shot but not retrieved	73
Special Canada Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*	5.26
TOTAL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST SPECIAL SEASON = 635	

**1* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied*

LIGHT GEESE (regular season)

Information provided in this section pertains only to the regular light goose season in South Dakota. The next section reports on the Spring Conservation Order.

The 2015 light goose season covered 26 September - 20 December statewide and included snow, blue, and Ross' geese and all other geese except Canada geese, brant and white-fronted geese. The daily bag was 50 geese with an unlimited season possession limit. To hunt geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game licenses plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident waterfowl license. All hunters age 16 and over were also required to obtain a federal waterfowl stamp.

In 2015, there were an estimated 3,615 hunters who hunted at least one day for light geese during the regular season (3,096 residents, 519 nonresidents). From survey responses, there was a projected harvest of 40,758 light geese (37,266 by residents, 3,492 by nonresidents).

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), those respondents who reported hunting at least one day for light geese reported an average rating of 4.78 for residents and 4.83 for nonresidents. The average days hunted by all hunters (5.66 residents, 4.71 for nonresidents) projected to a total of 19,974 recreation days for the season.

Comparison of the 2006 - 2015 regular season light goose harvests

Year	Resident Hunters					Nonresident Hunters				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2006	6,316	80,213	6.12	12.70	5.00	1,315	6,522	4.12	4.96	5.14
2007	4,377	44,120	6.03	10.08	4.90	754	2,903	4.23	3.85	4.97
2008	5,165	58,055	5.51	11.24	5.24	849	5,422	4.15	6.39	5.23
2009	4,298	52,350	5.57	12.18	4.96	733	3,473	4.40	4.74	5.24
2010	4,031	33,739	5.55	8.37	5.18	551	2,520	5.08	4.57	5.64
2011	3,614	36,419	3.92	10.08	5.37	617	4,409	4.78	7.15	5.55
2012	4,113	49,788	5.66	12.10	5.19	726	5,383	4.81	7.41	5.49
2013	3,747	46,871	5.25	12.51	5.01	641	6,451	4.85	10.06	5.48
2014	3,572	49,460	5.34	13.85	4.92	514	4,355	4.58	8.47	5.02
2015	3,096	37,266	5.66	12.04	4.78	519	3,492	4.71	6.72	4.83

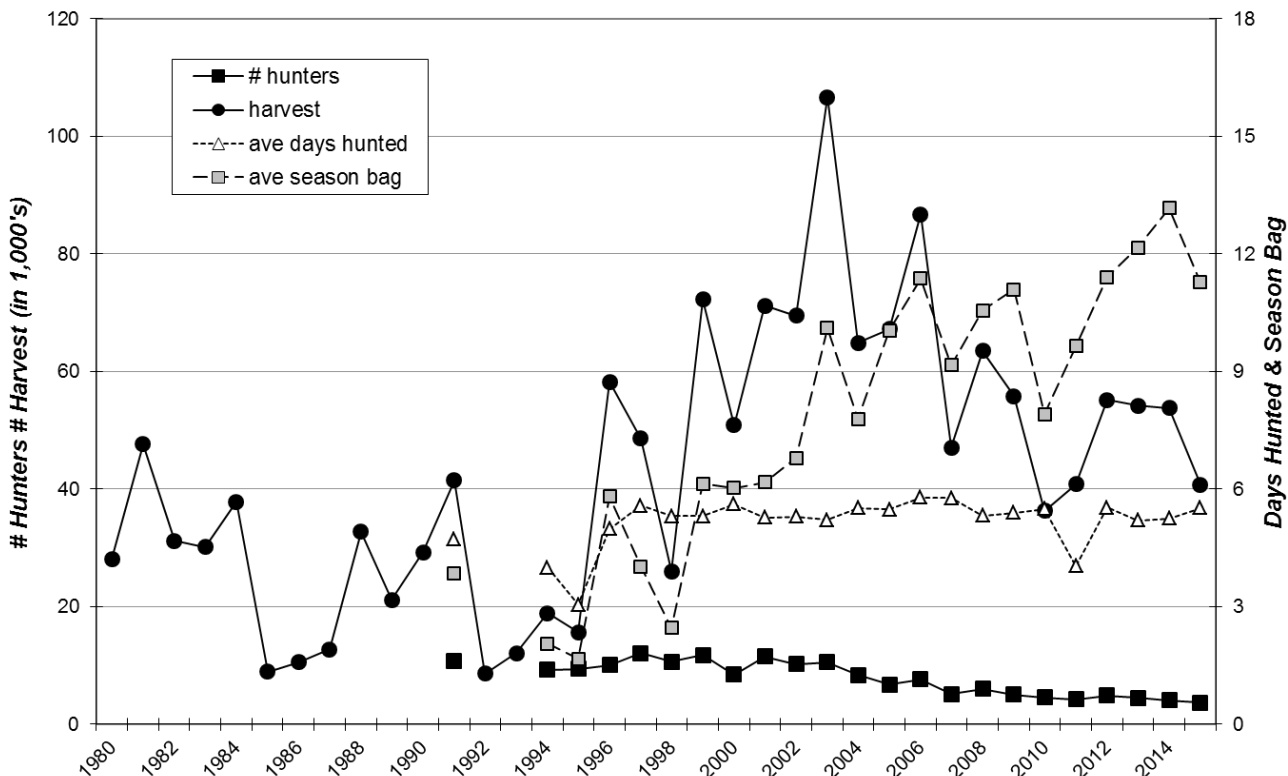
REGULAR SEASON LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2015

Revised: 1 June 2016

	NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT						Sum Estimates	Resident Total
	00A	00B	11A	00X	00Y	YW1		
Regular Season:								
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	18	185	0	16	25		244	333
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	162	848	0	63	104		1,177	1,885
Average Days Hunted Light Geese	9.00	4.58		3.94	4.16		4.71	5.66
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	53	1,199	0	149	260		1,661	4,008
Average Light Goose Bag for Season	2.94	6.48		9.31	10.40		6.72	12.04
Projected Days Light Goose Hunting	200	2,005	0	105	137		2,448	17,526
Projected No. Light Goose Hunters	22	437	0	27	33		519	3,096
Projected Light Goose Bag	66	2,835	0	249	343		3,492	37,266
TOTAL LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST REGULAR SEASON = 40,758								
Light Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*	5.39	4.71		5.33	5.04		4.83	4.78

1 Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied

STATEWIDE REGULAR SEASON LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST, 1980-2015



LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER

Information provided in this section pertains only to the Spring Light Goose Conservation Order in South Dakota. The previous section reported only on the regular season.

The 2015 Light Goose Conservation Order covered 14 February - 3 May statewide. This was the 17th year the conservation order was offered. The daily bag and possession limits were unlimited. To hunt light geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game licenses plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident Spring Light Goose or a nonresident Youth Spring Light Goose license. Hunters were not required to possess a federal waterfowl stamp to participate in the conservation order.

Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. In 2015, there were a projected 6,424 license holders who hunted at least one day for light geese during the conservation order dates (2,147 residents, 4,277 nonresidents). From the survey responses, there were a projected total of 165,331 light geese harvested.

The average days hunted projected to a total of 28,971 recreation days for the conservation order. Clark, Yankton, McCook, Brown, and Kingsbury county hunters had the highest reported harvest, accounting for an estimated 39% of the total harvest.

Comparison of the 2006 - 2015 Conservation Order light goose harvests

Year	<i>Resident Hunters</i>			<i>Nonresident Hunters</i>		
	<i>Number Hunters</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Total Days Hunted</i>	<i>Number Hunters</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Total Days Hunted</i>
2006	3,764	51,027	21,767	3,150	48,520	13,262
2007	2,480	39,343	13,323	2,808	57,212	9,970
2008	3,330	45,995	18,925	3,271	61,142	12,406
2009	2,895	38,184	15,173	3,621	78,765	15,063
2010	1,762	18,223	7,883	2,884	34,325	10,486
2011	2,503	33,569	15,600	3,617	77,786	26,766
2012	2,324	37,655	13,885	2,494	70,703	16,538
2013	3,166	53,571	15,502	4,142	114,926	15,856
2014	2,159	41,386	11,832	4,514	107,730	17,949
2015	2,147	53,046	12,402	4,277	112,285	16,569

SPRING LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST FOR 2015

Last Revised: 6 Aug 2015

	Resident	Nonresident
CONSERVATION ORDER LIGHT GOOSE Licenses Sold *3*	12,561	4,437
Projected ACTIVE CONS ORDER LIGHT GOOSE HUNTERS	2,147	4,277
Number Sampled for Survey	2,938	975
Number Responded to Survey	1,901	610
Responded and Participated in Season	325	588
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	1,576	22
Survey Response Rate	64.7%	62.6%
<i>TOTAL LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST CONSERVATION ORDER = 165,331</i>		
Late Season (Conservation Order) 2/14 - 3/10 Period:		
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	163	99
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	677	275
Average Days Hunted Light Geese	4.15	2.78
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	2,306	1,806
Average Light Goose Bag for Season	14.15	18.24
Projected Days Light Goose Hunting	4,473	2,000
Projected No. Light Goose Hunters	1,077	720
Projected Light Goose Bag	15,237	13,136
<i>TOTAL LIGHT GEESE HARVESTED 2/14 - 3/10 = 28,373</i>		
Late Season (Conservation Order) 3/11 - 5/3 Period:		
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	253	516
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	1,200	2,003
Average Days Hunted Light Geese	4.74	3.88
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	5,722	13,631
Average Light Goose Bag for Season	22.62	26.42
Projected Days Light Goose Hunting	7,929	14,569
Projected No. Light Goose Hunters	1,672	3,753
Projected Light Goose Bag	37,809	99,149
<i>TOTAL LIGHT GEESE HARVESTED 3/11 - 5/3 = 136,957</i>		
Reported Geese shot but not retrieved	396	569
Projected Geese Shot but Not Retrieved	2,617	4,139
3 Numbers of resident licenses sold are based on the number of migratory bird certificates in the 2015 database purchased prior to April 26		

WHITE-FRONTED GEESE

The 2015 white-fronted goose season was open from 26 September - 20 December statewide. The daily bag limit was 2 geese and the season possession limit was 6. To hunt white-fronted geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game licenses plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident waterfowl license. All hunters age 16 and over were also required to obtain a federal waterfowl stamp.

Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. There were a projected 1,372 hunters who hunted at least one day for white-fronted geese (1,097 residents, 275 nonresidents). There were a projected 1,819 white-fronted geese harvested (1,618 by residents and 201 by nonresidents).

Comparison of the 2006 - 2015 white-fronted goose harvests

Year	Resident Hunters				Nonresident Hunters			
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Days Hunted	Ave Bag, Season	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Days Hunted	Ave Bag, Season
2006	1,152	979	7.59	0.85	582	221	4.84	0.38
2007	971	757	8.00	0.78	357	96	4.82	0.27
2008	903	1,571	6.61	1.74	343	196	4.85	0.57
2009	902	1,443	5.98	1.60	240	91	5.75	0.38
2010	985	847	6.78	0.86	261	44	5.86	0.17
2011	973	896	4.24	0.92	288	115	5.28	0.40
2012	1,685	3,114	6.96	1.85	440	371	4.88	0.84
2013	1,098	1,694	5.83	1.54	224	197	5.13	0.88
2014	951	1,378	6.13	1.45	244	151	4.80	0.62
2015	1,097	1,618	5.93	1.47	275	201	5.20	0.73

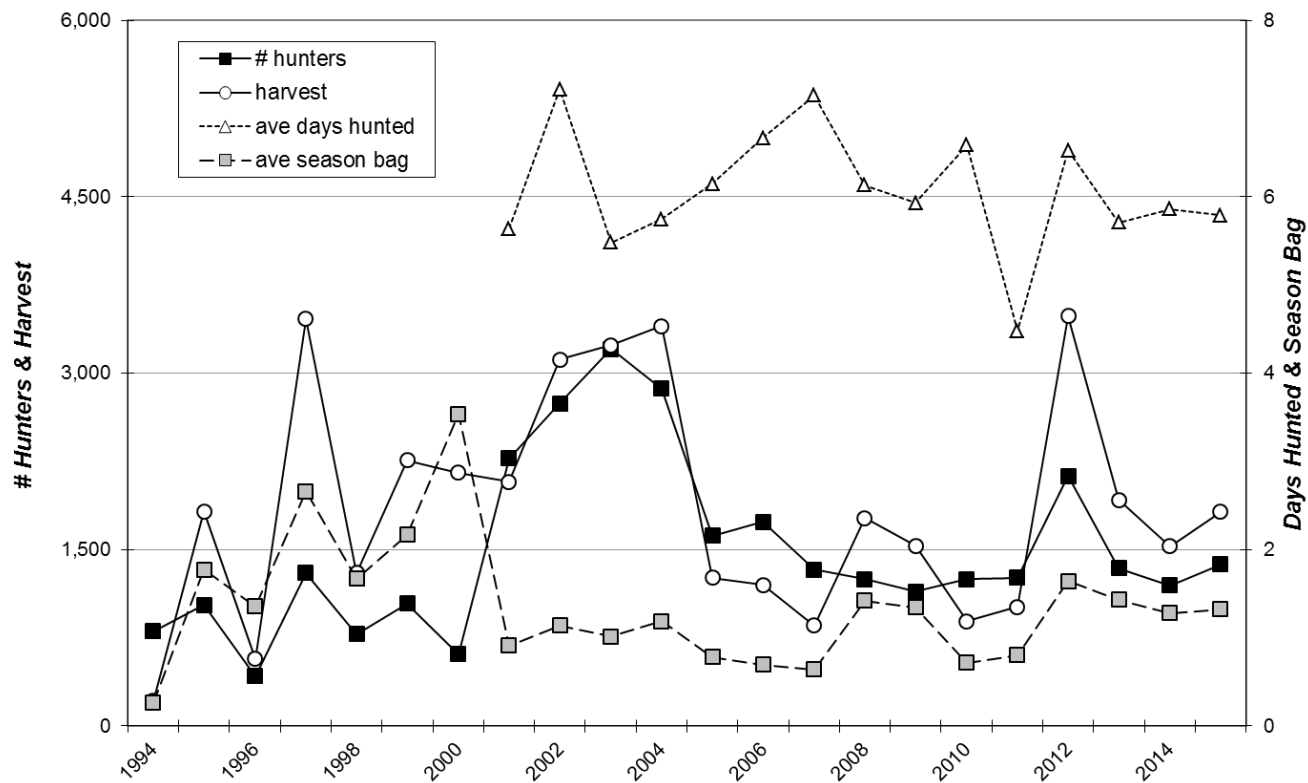
WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2015

Revised: 1 June 2016

	NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT						Sum Estimates	Resident Total
	00A	00B	11A	00X	00Y	YW1		
No. Hunters Reporting White-fronted Goose Days	18	97	0	4	13		132	118
Total Reported White-fronted Goose Hunted Days	179	486	0	11	33		709	700
Average Days Hunted White-fronted Geese	9.94	5.01		2.75	2.54		5.20	5.93
Total Reported White-fronted Geese Bagged	10	76	0	4	2		92	174
Average White-fronted Goose Bag for Season	0.56	0.78		1.00	0.15		0.73	1.47
Projected Days White-fronted Hunting	221	1,149	0	18	44		1,432	6,508
Projected No. White-fronted Goose Hunters	22	229	0	7	17		275	1,097
Projected White-fronted Goose Bag	12	180	0	7	3		201	1,618
TOTAL WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE HARVEST = 1,819								

1 Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied

STATEWIDE WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE HARVEST, 1994-2015



NOTE: Prior to 2001, the definition of a white-fronted goose hunter was one who bagged 1+ white-front. Starting in 2001, the definition was changed to a hunter who spent 1+ days hunting white-fronted geese. This definition increased the number of hunters and decreased the average season bag estimates, but not the overall harvest projections.

2015 Harvest Survey Response Rates

	Overall Response	Proportion	
		Internet	Mail-return
August Canada Goose	64.2%	58.1%	41.9%
Migratory Bird	64.7%	52.1%	47.9%
Nonresident Early Fall Canada Goose	51.7%	100.0%	0.0%
Nonresident Small Game	68.1%	56.3%	43.7%
Nonresident Waterfowl	78.3%	64.0%	36.1%
Resident Small Game	65.0%	52.9%	47.1%
Special Canada Goose	68.2%	100.0%	0.0%
Spring Light Goose	64.7%	53.6%	46.5%
Tundra Swan	79.3%	76.9%	23.1%

*Note: Due to late responses received through the Internet, final response rates may be higher than those reported in previous sections. Late responses were not included in data summaries or analysis.